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Free to Deployed Areas



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Retired from the military and want to light up in a state that has legalized pot? Getting high will put you in a legal gray area, but no need to be paranoid.

The chances of being charged with a crime are practically nil, legal

RETIREEES UNLIKELY TO FACE UCMJ CHARGES FOR SMOKING LEGAL POT

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN ■ Stars and Stripes

experts say, even though retirees are technically still subject to military law that forbids pot smoking anywhere, including Washington state and Colorado where recreational marijuana use is now allowed.

SEE LEGAL ON PAGE 5

IG issues scathing report of Pentagon's MIA accounting agencies

By MEGAN MCCLOSKEY
ProPublica

The Defense Department's inspector general has drafted a stinging rebuke of the Pentagon's struggling effort to recover the remains of missing servicemembers from past wars, concluding the mission lacks the

most elemental building blocks for success.

According to a draft report of its investigation obtained by ProPublica, the mission lacks agreed upon goals, objectives and priorities. It lacks a strategic plan and up-to-date policies. It lacks standard operating procedures, a complete centralized

database of the missing, and a disinterment plan, among other flaws.

Many of these same issues were also laid out by a ProPublica and NPR investigation earlier this year.

The shortcomings have contributed to a remarkably low number of identifications each

Read more about Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command: stripes.com/go/jpac

year — just 60 in 2013 out of the tens of thousands missing from World War II, Korea and Vietnam — despite about \$100 million annually to get the job done.

Defense Secretary Chuck

Hagel announced an overhaul in late March of the MIA effort. The current agencies involved in the mission will be consolidated within the next year into a new agency.

The revamped organization will have quite a job ahead of it.

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Kerry continues negotiations with presidential rivals

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Crucial details not shared with police in shooting response

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Selective Service tells men born in 1800s to register for draft

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I said, 'Geez, what the hell is this about?' It said he was subject to heavy fines and imprisonment if he didn't sign up for the draft board."

— Chuck Huey, 73, on a notice addressed to his late grandfather Bert Huey — a World War I veteran who died in 1995 — ordering him to register for the draft

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3. 14,000 draft notices sent to men born in 1900s
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5. Nimitz sailor under investigation over rape threat made on social media

COMING SOON

Sifting Gears

Bandit Run is all about the car



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MIDEAST

Kerry meets again with Afghan rivals

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was engaged Saturday in a difficult round of shuttle diplomacy between Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates, hoping to secure a path out of the country's postelection crisis.

Kerry was meeting separately at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul with former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani and former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah. Their negotiations centered on the details of a United Nations audit of last month's contested presidential election runoff.

The precise sticking points were unclear. But a joint news conference between Kerry and the two candidates at the U.N. compound was more than six hours behind schedule. Kerry's planned trip Saturday evening to Vienna for nuclear talks also faced a possible delay.

The prolonged uncertainty about the outcome of the election has jeopardized a central plank of President Barack Obama's strategy to leave behind a stable state after the withdrawal of most U.S. troops at year's end.

Preliminary runoff results, released earlier this week against U.S. wishes, suggested a massive turnaround in favor of the onetime World Bank economist Ghani, who lagged significantly behind Abdullah in first-round voting.

Abdullah, a top leader of the Northern Alliance that battled the Taliban before the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, claims massive ballot-stuffing. He was runner-up to Karzai in a fraud-riddled 2009 presidential vote before he pulled out of that runoff, and many of his supporters see him being cheated for a second time. Some, powerful warlords included, have spoken of establishing a "parallel government."

Kerry was meeting for the second day with Ghani and Abdullah after discussions Friday proved inconclusive, even though both candidates have acknowledged fraud in the election and agreed in principle to a U.N. investigation. He also met with current Afghan President Hamid Karzai



Jim Bourne/AP

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, walks Saturday across the presidential palace grounds in Kabul, Afghanistan, with Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry chief of protocol Ambassador Hamid Siddiq, left, and Foreign Minister Zahir Ahmad Osmani on his way to a meeting with President Hamid Karzai.

and the U.N. chief in Afghanistan, Jan Kubis.

The bitter dispute over who is Karzai's rightful successor has alarmed Afghanistan's U.S. and Western benefactors, creating a political crisis that risks undermining more than a decade of efforts to build an Afghan government capable of fighting the Taliban on its own and snuffing out terrorist groups like al-Qaida.

Extended instability would have more immediate consequences for Afghanistan. If no process is established and both Ghani and Abdullah attempt to seize power, the government and security forces could split along ethnic and regional lines.

And the winner amid all the chaos could be the Taliban, whose battle against the government persists despite the United States spending hundreds of billions of dollars and losing more than 2,000 lives since invading the country after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Kerry repeatedly has stressed

that Washington isn't taking sides. Instead, it is focused on creating a process that ensures Afghanistan's next leader is viewed as legitimate. "But I can't tell you that's an automatic at this point," he told reporters at one point Friday.

Senior U.S. officials said the talks in Kabul had focused on the technical particulars of a U.N. audit and hammering home the point that whoever proves the winner, the new government must bridge Afghanistan's many ethnic and regional divides.

However, one of the officials said only the "beginnings of conversations" had occurred during the first day, and offered no prediction of any breakthrough. The officials briefed reporters on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to be quoted while the talks were ongoing.

Ghani and Abdullah have differed on some of the fine points of the U.N.'s audit plan. Abdullah, for example, wants more voting districts examined. Other

questions center on who would be included among the investigators, where they'd travel and how they'd assess the level of fraud.

With Iraq wracked by insurgency, Afghanistan's postelection chaos is posing a new challenge to Obama's effort to leave behind two secure governments while ending America's long wars.

Both Ghani and Abdullah have vowed to sign a bilateral security pact with Washington, which says it needs the legal guarantees in order to leave behind some 10,000 troops in Afghanistan after most of the American military pulls out over the next five months.

If no clear leader emerges, the U.S. may have to bring home all its forces, an unwanted scenario that played out in Iraq just three years ago. In recent months, a Sunni Islamist insurgency has conquered a series of Iraqi cities and the country has shown signs of fracturing.

Karzai has refused to sign a U.S.-Afghan agreement, leaving it in the hands of his successor.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes

Marines stand in formation during the change-of-command ceremony Friday at Camp Pendleton, Calif., for I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Amos: Gen. Berger 'right man' to take reins of I MEF

BY JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Just before passing the flag — and command — of I Marine Expeditionary Force to Lt Gen. David Berger, the man who has led the 52,000 Marines and sailors of I MEF for two years looked out on the hundreds of uniformed men and women standing a line of battle formation on the grassy parade field.

"You look magnificent out there," said Lt Gen. John Toolan. "Ooh-rahi!"

"Ooh-rahi!" the Marines shouted back, in unison.

Toolan leaves Camp Pendleton to take command of Marine Corps Forces Pacific; Berger comes to I MEF from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Roughly 12,000 of the force's Marines and sailors are deployed in 22 countries around the world — including about 3,200 in Afghanistan, Toolan said. Berger's biggest challenge, the thing "staring in his face right now," is that he must also find forces to support the newly created special purpose Marine air-ground task force to deploy to the Central Command area of responsibility every six months.

"I think we can do it, but we've got to make sure that they're trained and ready," Toolan said, noting that the first task force for that region, heading out this fall, will not be fully trained before it deploys because there isn't enough time.

Toolan, who since 2003 has deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, had the names of all the Marines and sailors who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan since 2002 listed in the back of the ceremony program. The list was 13 pages long.

"The question comes, 'Well, is it worth it?'" he said during the change of ceremony. "It is. ... The mission was accomplished and that ground was sanctified."

Coming from Pendleton, Toolan told Stars and Stripes, he knows that Marines and sailors have been sent overseas time and time again — something he plans to keep in mind as he makes decisions about engagements in the Pacific.

"I have to keep my aperture open as far as where the problems are ... I have to be aware of what the draw is on resources of Central Command and [Africa command] and all the other boiling cauldrons," he said.

Though Toolan plans for the I MEF Marines currently in Afghanistan to be home by Jan. 1, he said the situation in Iraq has complicated the U.S. plans for stability, and what happens there "will have an impact on how we handle the future in Afghanistan."

"We thought we had the right guy in charge as the president, we thought maybe that the Iraqi security forces had a handle on security, but we saw how that in fact wasn't the case," he said. "We don't want a situation similar to that to happen in Afghanistan."



Lt. Gen. John Toolan, left, on Friday passed command of I Marine Expeditionary Force to Lt. Gen. David Berger.

Berger, who deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 as the commander of 1st Marine Division (Forward), one of I MEF's subordinate units, said in a short speech that he knows there were a lot of choices for officers to lead the unit, and he feels privileged to be chosen.

He told the Marines and sailors he would give them his "very best."

Gen. James Amos, the commander of the Marine Corps, said Berger is "the right man at the right time in history."

"Buckle your seat belts, you're in for a great ride," Amos told the Marines.

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Fog of war held back Benghazi military response

BY DONNA CASSATA
AND BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The military might have been able to prevent two of the four U.S. deaths in Benghazi if commanders had known more about the intensity of the sporadic gunfire directed at the CIA installation where Americans had taken refuge and had pressed to get a rescue team there faster, according to senior military leaders.

In closed-door testimony to Congress earlier this year, top military officers said that after the first attack on the main U.S. diplomatic outpost on Sept. 11, 2012, they thought the fighting had subsided and the Americans who had fled to the CIA base about a mile away were safe. In fact, they were facing intermittent small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades about midnight and had returned fire. Then the attackers dispersed.

Hours later, at first light, an 11-minute mortar and rocket-propelled grenade attack slammed into the CIA annex, killing security contractors Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty.

In hindsight, retired Gen. Carter Ham, then head of the U.S. military command in Africa, said he would have pressed Libyan contacts in the defense ministry and other officials to help speed up the evacuation of Americans from Benghazi.

Also, a special operations team that had been dispatched from Croatia to Sicily after the first attack might have made it to Benghazi, if a host of variables were ideal — a quick departure, wind direction and speed, and an unobstructed runway to land a U.S. aircraft.

Ham said "in a perfect world, with no other disruptions or distractions," it could have happened.

As it turned out, a six-man security team, including Special Forces personnel who arrived at Benghazi airport at 1:30 a.m., was held up there for hours by Libyan militia.

"In my view, that time delay, that inability of the team to get off of the Benghazi airport and get to the annex and back, I think allowed sufficient time for the second attack to be organized and conducted," said Ham, who was in Washington at the time of the attacks.

Two House panels — Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform — interviewed nine military officers earlier this year, and the testimony was released this week.

The first assault, about 9:40 p.m. local time, which killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and communications specialist Sean Smith, was the first news to some military leaders that the U.S. even had a diplomatic mission in the Libyan port city.

AF certifies SpaceX for satellite launches

BY W.J. HENNIGAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Rocket company SpaceX has reached a major milestone toward its goal to launch the U.S. government's most sophisticated national security satellites.

The upstart firm announced Friday that the Air Force certified its Falcon 9 rocket after poring through data from three of the rocket's successful flights that took place during the last year.

SpaceX still has more requirements to meet before it can formally compete for the multimillion-dollar program, but qualifying the three launches was the company's biggest hurdle. It expects to satisfy the remaining requirements later this year.

Now the groundwork has been laid for SpaceX to vie for one of the world's most lucrative space programs, called Evolved Ex-

pendable Launch Vehicle. Previously, the Air Force had only one company that was certified for missions to launch the military's most precious satellites. For eight years, the Pentagon has paid Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp. — operating jointly as United Launch Alliance — to launch spy satellites without seeking competitive bids.

In recent months, the arrangement has been embroiled in controversy on Capitol Hill over escalating costs and the cozy partnership. A bipartisan group of seven senators also wrote Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel asking for more scrutiny.

It came to a head in April when SpaceX filed a bid protest in the Federal Claims Court to challenge the Air Force's contract with United Launch Alliance. The U.S. government has recently filed a motion to dismiss the suit.

MILITARY

Report explores Navy Yard shooting response

Analysis finds communication problems led to flawed coordination, but praises multiagency cooperation

By PETER HERMANN
AND CLARENCE WILLIAMS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Communication problems among federal and local authorities complicated the search for the gunman during September's deadly mass shooting at the Washington Navy Yard, according to a District of Columbia police report that says D.C. officers were unable to make use of live video of the shooter as they streamed into harm's way.

The report says the U.S. Navy failed to tell police commanders that a video feed from 160 cameras in the corridors where Aaron Alexis, 34, opened fire could be accessed from a room just inside the building. A private security guard had locked himself in the room and apparently did not try to contact anyone.

Too many command buses covered the scene, officers talked over each other on different radio channels and there was confusion among some responders — and even top officials — about who was in charge.

"We never saw the base commander," D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier said in an interview. She said Navy officials set up a separate command center. "We're still not sure who was the right person to be the decision-maker," Lanier added. "It should have been the person in charge of the base."

Access to the video feed likely would have saved any lives on Sept. 16 — 10 of the 12 victims were killed within the first six minutes, before the first five shooter teams entered — but it might have prevented Alexis from wounding a police officer, Lanier said.

It also would have allowed police to more quickly discount reports of a possible second shooter. Authorities kept a swath of the District of Columbia in lockdown and on edge for three hours after officers fatally shot Alexis, who was acting alone.

Lanier said she does not know why the security guard in the video room did not notify anyone. "The only thing we can assume is that the person froze, didn't know what to do," the chief said.

A spokesman for the Navy District Washington did not respond to specific questions raised in the report about the base commander or who was not identified.

"I can tell you that the Navy Yard leadership is working closely with the Metro Police Department to strengthen our ties and to further develop our joint procedures during crisis situations," according to a statement from the spokeswoman, Chatney Auger.

Details and lessons from the Navy Yard shooting

A District of Columbia police report clarified some details about the movements of shooter Aaron Alexis through Building 197 in the Washington Navy Yard on Sept. 16 and revealed some issues that complicated the law enforcement response.

The shooter's movements

Alexis enters and takes his concealed shotgun and shells to a fourth-floor restroom. He walks across the hall to cubicles near the atrium.

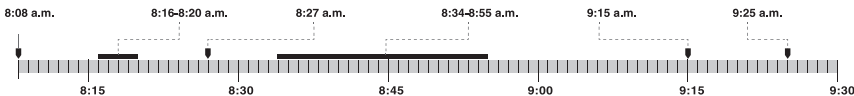
He fires repeatedly, killing eight people on the fourth floor, then takes stairs to the third floor and kills two more. He descends to the first floor.

He shoots a security guard at the front entrance and takes the dying man's gun. He exchanges gunfire twice with law enforcement officers.

From a stairwell, he opens a door to the outside and kills one of two men in the alley with the guard's gun. He eventually climbs to the third floor.

From a hiding place behind a cubicle, he fires at two groups of police who are closing in. He hits two officers, injuring one.

Police return fire and shoot and kill Alexis. They then search for additional shooters.



Problems in response



A private security guard locks himself in the building's command center with monitors for 160 closed-circuit TV cameras, which track the gunman, but no one else can see.



The base goes into lockdown, which locks out arriving police. D.C. police officers don't know which direction the gunman is fleeing.



The "sheer volume" of law enforcement personnel who arrive creates gridlock. Many agencies brought RV-size command buses, creating confusion about which command bus is the actual command site.



D.C. police don't realize the naval officer stationed at the command bus has no line of communication with the Pentagon or with the six-person Navy Yard police force.



The building itself created problems. Its acoustics made it difficult to tell where noise originated, the dense cubicle spaces were too tight for police rifles to maneuver and thick walls made police radio reception spotty.

SOURCE: Metropolitan Police Department

BONNIE BERKOWITZ, ALBERTO CUADRA AND ARON DAVIS/THE WASHINGTON POST



MATT MCCLAIN/The Washington Post

Law enforcement personnel converge on the Washington Navy Yard on Sept. 16 after reports of a mass shooting.

She said there are ongoing discussions with police "to improve response efforts."

The 82-page report — aimed at scrutinizing law enforcement's response and helping District of Columbia police and other agencies prepare for future attacks — was obtained by The Washington Post under a Freedom of Information Act request.

It details Alexis' movements as well as the heroics of officers and Navy Yard workers over 69 har-

rowing minutes. It praises the cooperation between officers from myriad agencies who entered the building in teams — 117 officers in all — but highlights flaws in the coordination at the command level.

The report echoes some problems raised after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, including the inability of all responders to talk to each other over their radios. Although some kinks have been worked out in recent years, such massive,

multilayered responses are still difficult.

With several agencies setting up command centers outside the 600,000-square-foot building, some critical information did not reach District of Columbia police officials who were directing the vast response, the report concludes. That included floor plans for Building 197: They were in a Homeland Security command bus just feet away, but they never got to Lanier.

The report's authors stress that on the morning of the shooting, officers and commanders were making instantaneous decisions in a deadly situation. Authorities did not know how many shooters there were, and early reports suggested that it could have been two or even three.

Police initially encountered locked gates and located Building 197 only because hundreds of people were running out of it. The first officers inside took a slain security guard's badge, which gave them access to many locked sections, and propped open doors for others who followed.

"The actions and decisions of that day were made, often in a split second, in a dynamic and extraordinary environment under extreme duress, facing a multitude of unforeseen challenges and dangers, without the benefit of hindsight," the report says. But, the report stresses, access to live feeds during the 69 minutes "may have also allowed police to quickly identify the shooter, ascertain his location, and help in determining whether others may have been involved."

The report recommends 76 changes in training, policy and equipment. It found that the AR-15 assault weapons officers carried were too long and unwieldy in the close office confines, so police will also be getting shorter-barreled M4 rifles. D.C. Officer Scott Williams, who was shot in his legs, believes that radio transmissions gave away his location, leading to plans to have officers now wear earpieces. And officers realized that the formation they'd been taught to use to hunt active shooters didn't work in the narrow hallways and cubicle mazes.

4 The actions and decisions of that day were made, often in a split second, in a dynamic and extraordinary environment under extreme duress, facing a multitude of unforeseen challenges and dangers without the benefit of hindsight.

District of Columbia police report

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MILITARY

Legal: Courts-martial for retirees a rarity

FROM FRONT PAGE

Cities and states around the country have adopted liberalized pot laws in recent years as American views on the drug have mellowed. But the Department of Defense has said unequivocally that servicemembers and civilian employees can never use marijuana due to prohibition by the Uniform Code of Military Justice and federal law, which still considers it an illegal street drug.

The long arm of military law also extends to retired servicemembers who draw pension payments. In rare cases, the services have recalled retirees to charge them with crimes.

"As a practical matter, they can," said Eugene Fidell, a Yale University law professor and former president of the National Institute of Military Justice. "But the chances that a retiree would get charged under the UCMJ for marijuana use are so close to zero, I don't see them or anyone should lose sleep over it."

Greg Rinckey, a former military prosecutor and partner in the Tully Rinckey law firm in Washington, D.C., also said pot charges are extremely unlikely. "I just don't see them court-martialing any retirees for smoking pot," he said.

There are a growing number of places where getting high is OK.

This week, Washington became the second state to open a regulated, recreational marijuana market, following suit with Colorado. The District of Columbia has made strong moves this summer toward decriminalizing use and possession, though Congress must approve. A total of 21 states have legalized marijuana use in some form.

Recent changes to pot laws caused the DoD to underscore its position — pot remains a big no-no.

In a memo to the services last year, the assistant secretary of defense for readiness and force management underscored the department's prohibition on marijuana use among military personnel "at all locations."

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Air Force base in Alaska, a state where growing and using small quantities of pot has been legal since 2012, warned airmen earlier this year that "all servicemembers, including retirees, cadets and reserve members entitled to pay" can be charged for pot under the UCMJ.

Under military law, possessing more than an ounce can be punished with a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay

and five years in the brig. Those caught with less than an ounce face the same discharge and pay punishments but only two years confinement, according to the Air Force.

Courts-martial for retirees are few and far between, but they do happen.

In 2012, retired Gen. David Petraeus was found to be having an affair while working as CIA director. The case blew up into a nationwide scandal and talk ensued about criminal charges for adultery, which is illegal under the UCMJ.

Petraeus was never charged, but in 1999 Army Maj. Gen. David Hale faced a similar situation and was recalled from retirement, then found guilty by a court martial for having affairs with the wives of four of his subordinates. The Army reduced his rank and cut back his pension payments as punishment.

However, Fidell and Rinckey said the military is very selective in such prosecutions and typically only pursues the most severe crimes.

In Hale's case, the offenses were committed while he was still serving and happened during a time when the military was being hammered publicly for misconduct among top officers and feeling



BETH NAKMURA/The (Portland) Oregonian/AP

At Main Street Marijuana in Vancouver, Wash., a customer buys marijuana on Wednesday, the first day of sales at the store.

pressed to send a message.

Recreational pot use among retirees does not rise to that level, they said. Charging a 70-year-old veteran for smoking a joint "just wouldn't look good for the military," Rinckey said.

Retirees also do not need to worry about being reported to the military by their VA doctor.

Those who smoke legal marijuana and receive treatment through the Department of Veterans Affairs may be asked for blood or urine in the course of routine care — that is for diagnosis purposes and not drug testing in any legal sense.

The VA told Stars and Stripes it cannot prescribe medical marijuana to patients due to federal law but it does not care if veterans use pot in states where that is allowed.

"VA is aware that some veterans who reside in states with marijuana programs and who also receive care in VA, do indeed participate in marijuana programs," spokeswoman Gina Jackson wrote in a statement. "Given the differences between state and federal laws regarding marijuana, a veteran's decision to participate in a state marijuana program is a personal one and not one dictated administratively by VA."

Overall, retirees are likely in the clear when it comes to legal pot but there may be only one option for those who want complete peace of mind. Rinckey said those looking for zero legal risk should just not smoke it.

Reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this story.
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MIA: Report says 'long-term' leadership, management problems hinder mission accomplishment

FROM FRONT PAGE

The inspector general also laid out problems with leadership at the main agency involved with the mission, which has yet to be publicly acknowledged by the Pentagon. Complaints from about 50 current and former Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command employees "paint a picture of long-term leadership and management problems resulting in a hostile and dysfunctional work environment," the report states.

"If left uncorrected, the problems driving these complaints will be brought into the new Defense agency... hindering mission accomplishment."

About a dozen former JPAC employees have told ProPublica that they loved the mission but quit because of leadership issues.

When the Pentagon announced the revamp of the mission this spring, it stressed a structurally flawed system rather than issues regarding individual leaders and sidestepped any questions about accountability. Most of the leaders within the various agencies have been in charge in different positions for decades.

The inspector general recommended that the Pentagon immediately "take corrective action" on the leadership problems, as well as cut back on staff to eliminate duplicative positions among the various agencies.

In addition to personnel issues, the IG also criticized the Pentagon for lacking defined metrics.

The report says the Pentagon needs to develop a policy to address the nearly 10,000 unidentified servicemembers who have

been buried as "unknowns" in American cemeteries around the world. It also calls for realistic prioritization of the 83,000 total MIAs, including "uniform criteria and policies across conflicts to categorize and declare an MIA servicemember as not likely to be recoverable." About 50,000 were lost at sea in downed ships or aircraft, making their remains unlikely to be found. Failing to acknowledge that prevents objectives from being set, in both accomplishment and for efforts like collecting family DNA reference samples, the IG said.

"If DoD established policy criteria to make a 'non-recoverable' determination, many MIA cases could be re-categorized and the families notified that DoD will no longer actively pursue these cases," the report states.

The Pentagon can't make all the changes on its own. The law currently requires a body to be found before someone can be taken off the MIA list.

The Pentagon also must figure out when to stop the entire mission. The IG writes that "in the absence of a defined end state and sunset criteria for actively searching for past conflict MIAs, the accounting mission can be expected to continue in perpetuity with ever-diminishing results and ever-increasing difficulty justifying costs."

In an addendum to the report, under "additional issues," the inspector general defended JPAC's limited use of DNA, which was contrary to what ProPublica and NPR found to be standard practice around the world. The report repeated JPAC claims that dental and other medical records are

often the better and faster source of identification. Outside scientists told ProPublica that while there are limitations to DNA, JPAC

should be using it more.

The Pentagon declined to comment on the report, saying the draft report was "pre-decisional."

A final report, after comments are gathered from all agencies involved, is expected to be publicly released by the end of the month.



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MILITARY



JERRY SOWDEN, THE (Oil City, Pa.) DERRICK/AP

Martha Weaver, shown with her husband Harold in their Nickleville, Pa., home, holds a letter on July 8 from the Selective Service System for her late father, Fred Minnick, requiring him to register for the nation's military draft. The letter arrived too late for Minnick, who was born in 1894 and died on April 20, 1992.

A century-late draft notice?

Selective Service sends 14,000 registration letters to Pa. men born in 1800s

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

No, the United States isn't trying to build a military force of centenarians.

It just seems that way after the Selective Service System mistakenly sent notices to more than 14,000 Pennsylvania men born between 1893 and 1897, ordering them to register for the nation's military draft and warning that failure to do so is "punishable by a fine and imprisonment."

The agency realized the error when it began receiving calls from bewildered relatives last week.

Chuck Huey, 73, of Kingston, said he got a notice addressed to his late grandfather Bert Huey, a World War I veteran who was born in 1894 and died in 1995 at age 100.

"I said, 'Geez, what the hell is this about?' It said he was subject to heavy fines and imprisonment if he didn't sign up for the draft board," he said. "We were just totally dumbfounded." Huey said he tried calling the Selective Service but couldn't get a live person on the line. That frustrated him even more because he

'You just never know. You don't want to mess around with the federal government.'

Chuck Huey
on receiving a notice ordering his late grandfather to register for the military draft

wanted to make sure the agency knew there had been a mistake.

"You just never know. You don't want to mess around with the federal government," he said.

The glitch, it turns out, originated with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation during a transfer of nearly 400,000 records to the Selective Service. A clerk working with the state's database failed to select the century, producing records for males born between 1993 and 1997 — and for those born a century earlier, PennDOT spokeswoman Jan McKnight said Thursday.

"We made a mistake, a quite serious selection error," McNight said.

The Selective Service didn't initially catch it because the state used a two-digit code to indicate year of birth, spokesman Pat Schuback said. The federal agency identified 27,218 records of men born in the 1800s, began mailing notices to them on June 30, and began receiving calls from family members on July 3. By that time, it had sent 14,250 notices in error. "It's never happened before," Schuback said.

The men are almost certainly all dead, given that the youngest would be turning 117 this year. Families of those men who received the notices can simply ignore them, he said. Their files will be deactivated and they shouldn't receive additional communications from the Selective Service. The agency also posted a notice and an apology on its website Thursday.

The state Transportation Department, meanwhile, said it had taken steps to ensure its mistake won't be repeated.

"We're really sorry," McNight said. "We apologize."

GOP Senate candidate reports for Guard duty

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — A new item on Lt. Col. Joni Ernst's checklist as she packed up for two weeks of annual training with the Iowa National Guard: denounce the health care law in the weekly Republican radio address.

An Iowa state senator who is running for the U.S. Senate, Ernst is leaving the campaign just as her bid against Democratic U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley is heating up. She won a five-way Republican primary last month and immediately joined Braley in a fierce back-and-forth over who should take the place of retiring Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin.

Then duty called. Just hours after she taped the Republicans' national address Thursday night, Ernst drove two hours in the dark from her rural southwest Iowa home to join her unit. She was assigned to lead a convoy of trucks to Wisconsin for two weeks of drilling at Fort McCoy.

Amid her preparations, Ernst recorded the GOP counter to President Barack Obama's weekly message, replete with criticism of Obama's health care law — "we need to start over" — and calls for a balanced budget amendment. She also says that programs such as Medicare and Social Security "must be reformed so America not only keeps its promise to today's seniors but is also able to guarantee that a safety net is available for our children and grandchildren."

Ernst introduced herself on air as a member of the Iowa Army National Guard. "In fact, I'm recording this message a few days early," she said. "And by the time you hear this, I will be on active duty."

A veteran of the Iraq War, Ernst spent a year as a transportation company commander leading daily convoys of roughly 60 trucks between Kuwait and Iraq.



AP

Iowa Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst is taking a two-week break from her campaign to take part in active duty training for the Iowa National Guard.

MILITARY

Lawmakers seek lower price tag for VA reform

By MATTHEW DALY
AND ANDREW TAYLOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stung by sticker shock, members of Congress are scrambling to lower the cost of a bill to fix veterans' health care amid a growing uproar over long waits for appointments and falsification of records to cover up the delays at Veterans Affairs hospitals.

At the same time, deficit hawks fear that letting veterans turn more to providers outside the VA for health care could cost far more if Congress, under pressure from powerful veterans groups, decides to renew that program rather than let it expire in two years.

Lawmakers in both parties agree on the need to reform the Veterans Affairs Department's health care network — the largest in the country — following reports of veterans dying while awaiting appointments at VA hospitals or clinics. The resulting election-year firestorm forced VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign in May. A half-dozen other VA officials have resigned or retired since then.

The latest analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates a Senate-passed bill would cost \$35 billion through 2016 to build new clinics, hire doctors and make it easier for veterans who can't get prompt appointments with VA doctors to get outside care. The CBO put the price tag of a similar measure passed by the House at \$44 billion.

More troubling for lawmakers are long-term costs. As currently designed, the legislation would relieve a big backlog of veterans awaiting appointments by letting them seek care outside the VA system, but that the expansion would expire after two years. Fiscal conservatives worried about swelling deficits fear lawmakers will yield to inevitable pressure from veterans to keep it.

"Once a benefit is provided to a large group of people it is hard to take it away, so there will be intense pressure on Congress to continue the benefit," said Ed Lorenzen of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a Washington-based group that advocates for lower deficits.

"I believe in choice and I hope that we will be able to continue to allow the policy

change for choice to continue beyond the two years," said Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. "But what we're faced with now is trying to erase the backlog that is plaguing VA and preventing veterans from getting timely access to their earned benefit of health care."

Once fully in place, the provision granting veterans easier access to private care could cost the government about \$38 billion a year — almost as much as the \$44 billion the government now spends annually on medical care for veterans, the budget office says.

Miller and other lawmakers have questioned the CBO estimates, saying the budget agency used faulty assumptions and did not account for provisions that would save money.

"I believe we can come up with very strong legislation at a lower cost than the initial CBO estimate," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Senate veterans panel.

Miller and Sanders co-chair a House-Senate conference committee that is trying to negotiate a compromise bill to address

long patient wait times and other problems at the VA. Bills passed last month would require the VA to pay private providers to treat qualifying veterans who can't get prompt appointments at the VA's nearly 1,000 hospitals and outpatient clinics or who live at least 40 miles from one of them.

The main obstacle is the bill's price tag — and how to pay it. The Democratic-controlled Senate treats the issue as an emergency and would allow virtually unlimited spending. The House bill, written largely by Republicans, requires Congress to appropriate money each year under existing budget caps for the overhaul. The cost would have to be covered through either higher taxes or cuts in other programs.

Congress will need to "go outside the VA to look for offsets" to pay for expanded care, Miller said. Sanders called the situation a crisis that deserved an emergency response — budget language for borrowing the money.

The VA bill "is not going to be paid for by cutting education or food stamps," Sanders said in a speech on the Senate floor. "That ain't going to happen."

VA faulted for delays in GI Bill vet benefits

By GREGG ZOROBY
USA Today

Nearly 80,000 veterans eligible for the new G.I. Bill saw their college terms disrupted last year because the VA was late distributing \$61 million in housing and book stipends, according to estimates released by the Department of Veterans Affairs Inspector General Friday.

Investigators extrapolated the figures in a review of 200 student cases where the VA was late paying out book and housing money to 18 percent of the veterans. Most of those delays were only a few weeks.

But for 8 percent of the students, it took a month or longer to get money for housing or books, long enough to detrimentally impact their school year, investigators said.

The VA, which administers the new G.I. Bill, paid out \$5.4 billion in housing and book stipends to 789,000 students in 2013.

The agency has vastly improved its processing time from the program's inception in 2009, says more than half the veterans seeking benefits had to wait weeks or months for their money.

Investigators blamed recent delays on several factors, including the complexity of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill law.

Veterans can be eligible for three different programs, and must expressly indicate on their applications which ones they are not seeking money from. Failure to do this creates processing delays and the VA can do a better job of informing veterans about this issue, the Inspector General said.



Air Force cadets learning the ropes

Basic Cadet Connor Johnson, center, gets an earful from a Cadre member during the finals of the Tug of War competition at "Field Day" for Basics on Friday at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Johnson's "Executioner Squadron" won the event.

MARK REIS, THE COLORADO SPRINGS (COLO.) GAZETTE/AP

Interim medical inspector named to assist in overhaul

By JOSH HICKS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is overhauling its medical inspector's office after a federal investigation agency slammed the division for its frequent use of the "harmless error" defense when problems occur within the VA health network.

The agency this week appointed a new acting director for the medical inspector's office and de-commissioned the division's hotline and its website. Veterans are now redirected to file concerns about the medical system with VA's inspector general.

Gerard Cox, a physician and Gulf War veteran who previously served as a top official for health policy within the Veterans Health Administration, will lead the medical inspector's office on an interim basis, according to a VA announcement.

"I expect Dr. Cox to help us restructure OMI to better serve veterans and create a strong internal-audit function, which will ensure issues of care quality and patient safety remain at the forefront," said acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson, who took over the agency in the wake of its recent scheduling scandal.

The Office of Special Counsel,

a federal investigative and prosecutorial agency that deals largely with whistleblower complaints, issued a letter to President Barack Obama last month that suggested the VA medical inspector's office has abused the harmless-error defense, preventing the department from acknowledging the severity of systemic problems.

The letter cited one example in which VA substantiated claims of improper credentialing, unlawful narcotic prescriptions, unsterile medical devices and noncompliant pharmacy equipment used for chemotherapy drugs at the agency's medical center in Jackson, Miss. Despite those issues, VA de-

termined there were no negative impacts on the health and safety of veterans seeking care there, according to the OSC.

Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner said veterans' health and safety is "unacceptably put at risk" when VA plays down its problems. She recommended that the agency designate a high-level official to lead efforts to correct the problem through disciplinary actions and by determining how widespread the issue has become.

Gibson responded to the OSC letter by ordering a review of the medical inspector's office. He said the appointment of a new interim director for the division will help improve VA oversight.

NATION

House panel chairman: \$3.7B request 'too much'

By ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A key Republican said Friday that President Barack Obama's multi-billion-dollar emergency request for the border is too big to get through the House, as a growing number of Democrats rejected policy changes Republicans are demanding as their price for approving any money.

The developments indicated that Obama faces an uphill climb as he pushes Congress to approve \$3.7 billion to deal with tens of thousands of unaccompanied

children who have been arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border from poor and gang-ridden Central American nations. And they suggested that even as the children keep coming, any final resolution is likely weeks away in Congress.

As House members gathered Friday morning to finish up legislative business for the week, Rep. Hal Rogers, chairman of the Appropriations Committee that controls spending, told reporters: "It's too much money. We don't need it."

Rogers, who previously had sounded open to the spending re-

quest for more immigration judges, State Department programs and other items, said that Obama's request includes some spending to meet immediate needs, and his committee is working to sort that out.

But he said other aspects can be handled through Congress' regular spending bills, though no final action is likely on those until after the November congressional elections. And asked whether the House would approve the spending package as-is, he said "no."

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest responded by say-



MICHAEL SCHENNUM, THE (PHOENIX) ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., leaves after a news conference at his office in Phoenix on Friday to discuss legislation he is introducing to address the mounting humanitarian crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

ing that "we're open to working with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to get this done."

"The thing that I would point out, though, is that the president has moved quickly to be very

clear about what specifically needs to be funded," Earnest said. "And we would like to see Republicans back up their rhetoric with the kind of urgent action that this situation merits."

White House: Deficit to dip below \$600B for first time since recession

By LORI MONTGOMERY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The White House said Friday that the federal budget deficit will fall to \$583 billion this year, the smallest deficit of President Barack Obama's tenure and the first to dip below \$600 billion since the Great Recession took hold in 2008.

In its midyear review of the nation's finances, the White House predicted that the deficit for the fiscal year that ends in September will be about \$66 billion lower than the administration forecast in February.

The improvement is driven primarily by sluggish rates of spending at the Pentagon and other federal agencies, particularly on recovery efforts for Hurricane Sandy. The administration also expects to spend less this year than previously forecast on health insurance subsidies for low-income families under the Affordable Care Act. The price of those subsidies is now predicted to be slightly higher, however, over the coming decade.

While the analysis brought good news for the short term, the outlook for the longer term was less rosy. The White House predicts that the nation's finances will deteriorate markedly during the next decade, with deficits rising by nearly \$600 billion compared with previous projections.

The administration attributes the shift almost entirely to tax collections that are now expected to be sharply lower due to slower-than-expected economic growth in the next few years. After an unexpected 2.9 percent drop in gross domestic product in the first quarter of this year, the White House lowered its forecast to 2.6 percent growth in the current fiscal year. The administration has earlier predicted a 3.3

percent surge in GDP.

Officials at the White House Office of Management and Budget did not respond to requests for comment on the report, which was abruptly released Friday afternoon without the standard warnings to reporters.

In a blog post, acting budget director Brian Deese highlighted the positive, noting that Obama has presided over "the most rapid sustained deficit reduction since World War II."

When Obama took office in 2009, the economy was in freefall and the budget deficit was soaring toward \$1.4 trillion, the first of four consecutive trillion-dollar deficits that drove the national debt to the highest level as a percentage of the economy since the end of World War II.

Since then, the economy has improved and Obama has signed off on painful but historic spending cuts under pressure from Republicans in Congress. Last year, the deficit fell to \$680 billion. And after nearly three years of all-consuming budget battles, lawmakers heading into midterm elections have taken a break from the contentious work of deficit reduction — at least until next year, when new deadlines loom on the debt limit and automatic agency budget cuts known as the sequester.

On Friday, Democrats hailed the new White House deficit forecast, which came on the same day as a separate Treasury Department announcement that the government actually recorded a surplus of \$71 billion for the month of June.

"Today's report ... shows once again that our fiscal outlook has improved significantly in the near-term," Senate Budget Committee chairman Patty Murray, D-Wash., said in a written statement.



JAY JANNER, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

President Barack Obama gives a speech about the economy Thursday in Austin, Texas.

Obama relishes road show, but agenda remains stuck

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Welcome to Barack Obama's split-screen presidency.

On one side: a confident Obama making campaign-style stops around the country and ridiculing his political opponents to the delight of cheering supporters. On the other side: an increasingly unpopular president hobbled by gridlock on Capitol Hill and a stream of vexing foreign policy crises.

His ability to rally public support in a way that results in progress for his legislative agenda has perhaps never been weaker than it is as he nears the midpoint of his second term.

To the White House, the conclusion is that Washington — and the Republican Party in particular — is out of touch with the American people and failing to address their

priorities. To Republican GOP leaders, Obama's activities in a midterm election year reinforce their view of a president more focused on soaring speeches and partisan politics than on working toward compromise.

Many Americans are indeed deeply frustrated with Washington's inability to get anything done. Polls show majorities want to see action on some of Obama's proposals, including increasing the minimum wage and overhauling the immigration system. Yet Obama's own approval rating has fallen to the lowest levels of his presidency. And with his party at risk of losing control of the Senate, the president has ramped up his fundraising for the midterms and has taken on a sharply partisan tone.

During a speech Thursday in Austin, Texas — a Democratic enclave in a GOP-leaning state

— Obama accused Republicans of failing to act on "every serious idea" he's put forth this year.

"The best you can say for them this year is that so far they have not shut down the government," he said. "That's the best you can say. But of course, it's only July, so who knows what they may cook up in the next few months."

Egged on by a raucous and supportive crowd, Obama slipped deeper into campaign mode, leaning into the podium, responding to commentary from the audience and slipping into the familiar campaign language of his presidential bids. "Cynicism is a choice. Hope is a better choice," he declared.

The president still says he is willing to work with Republicans, but his advisers privately acknowledge that they have low expectations that there will be any bursts of bipartisan productivity in Washington this year.

NATION

CDC closes 2 labs after safety breaches

By TONY PUGH

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has closed two laboratories in Atlanta and stopped sending out infectious agents and other biological materials from its highest-level biosecurity labs due to recent safety and security lapses.

The lapses include the accidental exposure of CDC lab personnel to anthrax and the previously unreported shipment of a deadly strain of bird flu to another government lab. No one has been found to have been infected.

The moratorium on the shipment of biological materials will remain in place pending further investigation into the cause of the safety breaches and implementation of new lab safety measures.

"These events serve as a warning that the protocols are not what they need to be to ensure that our laboratories operate safely," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, the CDC's director.

The bird flu incident, which began at the CDC's influenza laboratory in Atlanta, was discovered May 23 but wasn't reported to senior CDC officials until Mon-

day. Frieden didn't hear of the situation until Wednesday.

When asked Friday about the six-week delay in reporting the incident, Frieden said: "I can think of no valid explanation."

The incident occurred when a culture of relatively safe bird-flu virus was accidentally cross-contaminated with a highly pathogenic strain and then shipped to a Department of Agriculture laboratory in Athens, Ga. Although no exposures occurred from the mishap, the influenza laboratory has been closed and won't reopen until new safety procedures

are implemented following the investigation.

The bird flu scare came to light after a June incident that potentially exposed some 75 CDC staffers in Atlanta to live anthrax. A new CDC report issued Friday said it was possible but extremely unlikely that affected lab personnel were exposed to the deadly toxin. None have become ill.

Both incidents have shaken the sterling reputation of the CDC as the gold standard in the safe handling, storage and shipment of infectious agents and dangerous pathogens.

"Fundamentally, what they revealed was totally unacceptable behavior," Frieden said. "These events should never have happened. ... 'I'm disappointed by what happened and, frankly, I'm angry about it.'"

Staff at CDC who contributed to the incidents or were in a position to prevent them will face disciplinary action following further investigation, Frieden said.

Earlier this month, six, 60-year-old vials of smallpox virus were found in a storage room on the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Md.



GREG BARNETTE THE (RODING, CALIF.) RECORD SEARCHLIGHT/AP

A member of an inmate firefighting crew works on the Bully fire Friday, near Oro, Calif. Wildfires in rural California burned through 2,000 acres of brush and timberland on Friday, prompting some evacuations.

Crews continue fight to contain raging wildfires in Calif., Wash.

The Associated Press

ENTIAT, Wash. — Several hundred firefighters worked Friday to contain a fire that has burned grass and brush across nearly 32 square miles in central Washington.

The blaze threatened more than 200 homes and damaged a few outbuildings in Chelan County near Entiat, roughly midway between Seattle and Spokane.

Residents of several dozen homes have been told to evacuate, fire operations spokeswoman Laurie Dowie said. The fire was partially contained by Friday evening. Also, a stretch of highway near the blaze reopened after a temporary closure because of firefighting work in the area.

Worried that hot, dry conditions would increase fire dangers, state officials extended an outdoor burn ban to include all 13 million acres of lands that the

state protects.

Meanwhile, firefighters aggressively attacked a California wildfire that was spreading fast after starting Friday afternoon in a remote part of the Sequoia National Forest.

U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Cindy Thill said that the fire started around 2 p.m. and within a couple of hours had burned more than 1 square mile of the Kiavah Wilderness area. The blaze burned through shrubs and in some places skipped across the treetops, she said.

No homes or giant Sequoia trees were in danger from the fire, but air crews were hitting the flames with tankers and helicopters while hundreds of firefighters head to the scene. The Sequoia National Forest, where the fire started, is south of and geographically separate from the Sequoia National Park east

of Fresno, which is home to giant Sequoia trees.

A blaze burning near Spokane was held at less than 2 square miles and was partially contained, spokesman Chuck Turley said Friday afternoon.

Firefighters working the blaze near Ford in Stevens County hope it doesn't flare up in the hot, dry conditions forecast for the weekend, Turley said.

"As heat hit this area, some of the areas will have a tendency to rekindle," Turley said.

The Lake Spokane campground will be closed at least through the weekend, he said. Officials are urging people to be vigilant as hot and dry conditions increase fire risks throughout the state.

A burn ban, which has already been in effect in Eastern Washington, now includes Western Washington. The ban is in effect through Sept. 30.

Ventura gets emotional in SEAL book testimony

By TRACY FURST

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura testified Friday that the fight in which he supposedly was decked by an outraged Navy SEAL in a California bar never happened.

Ventura showed his emotional and pugnacious sides during his first session on the stand in his defamation lawsuit in federal court in St. Paul.

His lawsuit claims that the late Chris Kyle damaged his reputation by fabricating an account of a 2006 bar incident in Coronado, Calif. Kyle claimed in his best-selling book, "American Sniper," that a celebrity former SEAL incensed him by saying at a wake for a SEAL killed in action that the SEALs "deserve to lose a few." Kyle wrote that he punched the man out and fled the bar. He later identified the celebrity as Ventura in radio and TV interviews.

Ventura lost his composure and began to tear up while describing how he was named "Go-Frogman of the Millennium" by "Blast" magazine, which goes to members of underwater demolition teams that were a branch of the U.S. Navy SEALs.

"It's probably the biggest honor in my life," Ventura said, choking up.

"Bigger than being governor?"

his attorney David Olsen asked.

Ventura said yes, because "I was part of the team."

Ventura said that after the Iraq War, he decided to have the trident, symbol of the underwater demolition teams, tattooed on his chest.

"Do I need to show it, or will opposing counsel believe me?" he asked loudly. "Maybe opposing counsel wants to see it."

U.S. District Judge Richard Kyle answered first.

"You're not going to show it," he said. "Let's break for lunch."

Ventura will continue his testimony Monday.

Before Ventura took the stand, his son, Tyrel, testified that he had never seen such hatred expressed in online comments as he did after Kyle claimed that his father made derogatory remarks about the war in Iraq, George Bush and Navy SEALs.

"I saw a lot of terrible things," Tyrel Ventura said.

Tyrel Ventura said thousands of hostile comments about his father were posted with the online version of Kyle's interviews promoting the book on the "Opie and Andy" show on Sirius XM radio and Bill O'Reilly's TV show on Fox in 2012, just after "American Sniper" was published.

"There were a lot of death threats," he said. "I've never seen (so much) hatred of my father."

Tracy Morgan sues Wal-Mart over accident

TRENTON, N.J. — Tracy Morgan has sued Wal-Mart over last month's highway crash that seriously injured him and killed a fellow comedian.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in New Jersey, claims Wal-Mart was negligent when a driver of one of its tractor-trailers rammed into Morgan's limousine van. The complaint claims the retail giant should have known the driver had been awake for over 24 hours, and that his commute of 700 miles from his home in Georgia to work in

Delaware was "unreasonable." It also alleges the driver fell asleep at the wheel.

"As a result of Wal-Mart's gross, reckless, willful, wanton, and intentional conduct, it should be appropriately punished with the imposition of punitive damages," according to the complaint.

Truck driver Kevin Roper, 35, of Jonesboro, Ga., has pleaded guilty to death by negligence and assault by auto charges. A criminal complaint also accuses him of not sleeping for more than 24 hours before the crash, a violation of New Jersey law.

From The Associated Press

NATION



North Carolina Republican congressional candidate David Rouzer, right, talks with campaign aide Tyler Foote in Raleigh, N.C.

Fla. court ruling criticizes GOP gerrymandering

By CHARLES BABINGTON
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Democrats have long claimed that Republicans abused their legislative powers to elect a disproportionate number of U.S. House members. Now a Florida court is lending credence to their complaint.

The full impact of the Florida ruling — plus a similar lawsuit pending in North Carolina — won't be known for some time. For now, at least, they shine light on the fiercely partisan practice of gerrymandering, in which state officials draw congressional districts to help their party.

Republicans and Democrats have engaged in gerrymandering for decades. Republicans refined the practice in 2011, a year after they won control of numerous state governments preparing to redraw congressional maps based on the 2010 census. It's one reason Republicans hold a solid House majority even though Americans cast 1.4 million more votes for Democratic House candidates than for GOP House candidates in 2012.

Florida is a prime example of Democrats' frustration. President Barack Obama carried the state twice, but Florida's U.S. House delegation has 17 Republicans and 10 Democrats.

A Florida judge ruled Thursday that the GOP-controlled state legislature illegally drew congressional districts to primarily benefit the Republican Party and ordered them redrawn. The legislature is expected to appeal the ruling, and this fall's elections are unlikely to be affected.

Republicans haven't controlled the White House or U.S. Senate for more than five years. Yet their House majority — now 234 to 199 — looks safe this fall. Redistricting episodes in Florida and North Carolina help explain why.

Republicans hold nine of North Carolina's 13 U.S. House seats, and they have solid prospects to make

it 10. Their nominee is favored to win a district — which Obama lost by 19 percentage points — being vacated by centrist Democratic Rep. Mike McIntyre.

In recent statewide elections, North Carolina has been about as evenly divided as a state can be. Obama narrowly won it once, and then lost it once. Voters replaced a Democratic governor with a Republican in 2012. Each party has one U.S. senator, and this fall's re-election bid by Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan is likely to be extremely close.

The House delegation makeup, by contrast, seems more fitting for a reliably Republican state, like Georgia perhaps.

The arrangement lacks "elemental fairness," said state Senate Democratic leader Dan Blue moments after attacking Republican school spending cuts at a Raleigh news conference. The nation's founders, Blue said, could not have envisioned congressional representation falling so out of balance with a state's overall political sentiment.

Several other states have sent more Republicans to Congress than their presidential voting patterns would suggest. Obama carried Ohio twice, but Republicans control its U.S. House delegation 12-4. Pennsylvania hasn't backed a GOP presidential nominee since 1988, but it has 13 House Republicans and five Democrats.

The House makeup is similar in other states that Obama won twice, including Virginia (8-3 Republican), Michigan (9-5 Republican) and Wisconsin (5-3 Republican).

The only state trending the other way is Arizona. Obama lost the state, yet it has five House Democrats and four Republicans.

A chief reason for the imbalance is the often politicized state-by-state practice of redrawing the House's 435 districts after each once-a-decade census. Districts are apportioned by population, with each state getting at least one House member.

Houston man accused of killing 6 execution-style collapses in court

By MICHAEL MUSKAL
Los Angeles Times

Ronald Lee Haskell, accused in the shooting of his former relatives in Texas, collapsed in court Friday as he faced charges that he broke into the family's Houston-area home seeking his ex-wife and killed two adults and four of their children execution-style.

Authorities said Haskell had left a trail of family-related violence in three states, ending in the rampage in the Houston suburb of Spring.

Haskell, 33, briefly appeared in court and was taken away in a wheelchair and returned to the Harris County Jail, where he was being held without bond, spokeswoman Tramesha Randall told the Los Angeles Times.

Haskell faces one count of capital murder/multiple murders, and prosecutors will present the case to a grand jury, said Jeff McShan, a spokesman for the Harris County district attorney's office. The office has not decided whether to seek the death penalty, he said.

A court-appointed defense attorney said Haskell had a history of mental issues and was not fully aware of his actions, McShan said.

Haskell is accused of breaking into the home of Stephen Stay, 39, and Katie Stay, 33, and their five

children Wednesday evening, authorities said.

He apparently was looking for his former wife, Melannie, who was not at the house. One of the children, Cassidy, 15, tried to keep her former uncle out, but he eventually broke in, holding the children at gunpoint until their parents returned, police said. He tied up the children and shot the family members in the back of the head, police said.



Haskell

Cassidy is being hailed as a heroine for playing dead and calling 911 after Haskell purportedly left the house. She remains in critical condition with a fractured skull but is expected to make a full recovery, her family said.

Haskell recently argued with his mother at her home in San Marcos, in San Diego County, and physically restrained her, according to a statement from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Karla Haskell, 62, alleged in court papers that her son tied her to a chair on July 2 and tried to choke her.

By the time deputies were called, Ronald Haskell was gone.

Deputies searched for Haskell over the course of several days but were unable to find him. The argument was purportedly sparked by Haskell's anger over his mother being in contact with his former wife.

Haskell had several run-ins with law enforcement in Utah, where he had lived with his wife. He was jailed in 2008 in Logan, about 80 miles north of Salt Lake City, on charges of assault and domestic violence. His wife told police he dragged her by her hair and struck her on the head in front of their children. Those charges were later dismissed as part of a plea deal, according to information released by Logan authorities.

Haskell's former wife served him with a protective order last year. It was dismissed in October after the couple filed for divorce. A divorce decree issued in February shows that the couple separated in June 2013. A judge granted joint custody of the couple's four children, ranging in age from 3 to 11, with Haskell's wife getting primary custody, according to court documents in Texas.

Officials said it was unclear when Haskell arrived in Texas. His last known job was in San Diego.

Va. father pronounces his daughter a princess

By ALLIE ROBINSON GIBSON
Bristol (Va.) Herald Courier

ABINGDON, Va. — An Abingdon, Va., man claimed a kingdom so his daughter could be a princess.

Jeremiah Heaton, who has three children, recently trekked across the Egyptian desert to a small, mountainous region between Egypt and Sudan called Bir Tawil.

The area, about 800 square miles, is claimed by neither Sudan nor Egypt, the result of land disputes dating back more than 100 years. Since then, there have been several online claimants to the property, but Heaton believes his physical journey to the site, where he planned a flag designed by his children, means he rightfully can claim it and call his daughter, 7, Princess Emily, the fulfillment of a promise he made months earlier.

"Over the winter, Emily and I were playing, and she has a fixation on princesses. She asked me, in all seriousness if she'd be a real princess someday," Heaton said. "And I said she would."

He said he started researching what it would take for him to become a king so Emily could be a princess. As it turns out, Bir Tawil is among the last pieces of unclaimed land on earth.

Heaton, who works in the mining industry and unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 2012, got permission from the Egyptian government to travel through the country to the Bir Tawil region. "It's beautiful there," Heaton



PHOTOS BY DAVID CRIGGER, BRISTOL (VA.) HERALD COURIER/AP

Jeremiah Heaton and his daughter, Princess Emily, 7, show the flag that their family designed as they try to claim a piece of land in the Eastern African region of Bir Tawil, shown below.



said. "It's an arid desert in Northeastern Africa. Bedouins roam the area; the population is actually zero."

In June, he took the 14-hour caravan journey through the desert in time to plant the flag of the Heaton kingdom — blue with the seal and stars representing members of the family — in Bir Tawil soil.

When Heaton got home, he and his wife, Kelly, got their daughter

a princess crown and asked family members to address her as Princess Emily.

"It's cool," said Emily, who sleeps in a custom-made castle bed fit for royalty.

She added that as princess, she wants to make sure children in the region have food.

"That's definitely a concern in that part of the world," Heaton said. "We discussed what we could do as a nation to help."

Heaton named the land the Kingdom of North Sudan, after consulting with his children.

"I do intend to pursue formal recognition with African nations," Heaton said, adding that getting Sudan and Egypt to recognize the kingdom would be the first step.

WORLD

4 civilians killed in artillery fire in Ukraine

MARYINKA, Ukraine — Artillery fire killed at least four people in an overnight attack on a residential area in eastern Ukraine, spurring more people to flee the besieged city of Donetsk and its suburbs on Saturday to take their chances elsewhere.

Pro-Russian insurgents last week retreated from the strategic city of Sloviansk and holed up in Donetsk, a city of one million, and potentially the final frontier for the rebels. The overnight artillery strike in Maryinka, a western suburb of Donetsk, hit four apartment blocks near a rebel base. It was unclear, however, which side fired at the buildings.

"Even the fascists didn't do what they did. So many peaceful citizens," said a resident who gave her name as Valentina Mikhailovna. "Look what's happening! Dead, dead, dead people!"

Putin kicks off Latin America tour in Cuba

HAVANA — Russian President Vladimir Putin began a six-day Latin American tour aimed at boosting trade and ties in the region with a stop Friday in Cuba, a key Soviet ally during the Cold War that has backed Moscow in its dispute with the West over Ukraine.

The two countries signed about a dozen accords in areas such as energy, industry, health and disaster prevention. Russian companies will participate in petroleum projects around Boca de Jaruco on the island's north coast, and that cooperation will extend to offshore oil deposits, Cuban government website Cubadebate said.

The agreement covers infrastructure at a big, new port project that Cuba hopes will become a regional shipping center and attract much-needed foreign investment.

Moscow is also forgiving 90 percent of Cuba's Soviet-era debt, but totals more than \$35 billion. The remainder will be invested in education on the island, Putin added.

Strong quake hits Japan, triggers tsunami

TOKYO — A strong earthquake hit Japan's northern coast Saturday near the nuclear power plant crippled in the 2011 tsunami. At least one person was injured and a small tsunami was triggered, but no damage was reported.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said the magnitude-6.8 quake struck 6 miles below the surface off the coast of Fukushima. The 4:22 a.m. quake shook buildings in Tokyo, about 120 miles southwest of the epicenter.

An 8-inch tsunami reached the coast of Ishinomaki Ayukawa and Ofunato about 50 minutes after the quake. Smaller waves were observed at several other locations along the coast, but changes to the shoreline were not visible on television footage aired by public broadcaster NHK.

In Fukushima, a 68-year-old woman fell down on stairs and broke her leg, according to the prefectural police.

From The Associated Press



HATEM MOUSSA/AP

Smoke rises after a cargo crossing between Israel and Gaza was shelled Saturday.

Israel widens air attack, Gaza death toll tops 125

By NABIB JOBAN
AND ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel widened its air assault against the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers on Saturday, hitting a mosque it said was hiding rockets, as Palestinians said their death toll from the five-day offensive rose to over 125.

The military said it has struck more than 1,100 targets, including Hamas rocket launchers, command centers and weapon manufacturing and storage facilities, in a bid to stop relentless rocket fire coming from Gaza. Officials in the territory said that besides the mosque, the strikes also hit Hamas-affiliated charities and banks, as well as a home for the disabled, killing two women.

The central Gaza mosque was being used to conceal rockets like those militants have fired nearly 700 times toward Israel during the past five days, the military said. However, the strikes in the densely populated Gaza Strip show the challenge Israel faces as it considers a ground operation that could potentially pose further dangers to civilians.

While there have been no fatalities in Israel from the continued rocket fire, Gaza Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Kidra said overnight Israeli strikes raised the death toll there to over 125, with more than 920 wounded.

Hamas militants have been hit hard. Though the exact breakdown of casualties remains unclear, dozens of the dead also have been civilians.

The offensive showed no signs of slowing down Saturday as Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said his country should

ready itself for several more days of fighting.

"We have accumulated achievements as far as the price Hamas is paying and we are continuing to destroy significant targets of it and other terror organizations," Yaalon said after a meeting with top security officials. "We will continue to punish it until quiet and security returns to southern Israel and the rest of the country."

Hamas said it hoped the mosque attack would galvanize support for it in the Muslim world.

"(It) shows how barbaric this enemy is and how much it is hostile to Islam," said Husam Badran, a Hamas spokesman in Doha, Qatar. "This terrorism gives us the right to broaden our response to deter this occupier."

The Israeli military released an aerial photo of the mosque it hit, saying Hamas hid rockets in it right next to another religious site and civilian homes. It said Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other Gaza militant groups use this tactic of abusing religious sites to conceal weapons and to establish underground tunnel networks, deliberately endangering civilians.

"Hamas terrorists systematically exploit and choose to put Palestinians in Gaza in harm's way and continue to locate their positions among civilian areas and mosques, proving once more their disregard for human life and holy sites," said Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, an Israeli military spokesman.

Critics, though, say such allegations are too sweeping, and that Israel's heavy bombardment of one of the densely populated territories is itself the main factor putting civilians at risk.

Sarit Michaeli of the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said that while using human shields violates international humanitarian law, "this does not give Israel the excuse to violate international humanitarian law as well."

Israel issues early warnings before attacking Gaza targets and the military says it uses other means to do its utmost to avoid harming bystanders. But Michaeli said civilians have been killed when Israel bombed family homes of Hamas militants or when residents were unable to leave their homes quickly enough following the Israeli warnings.

"Justifying all Israeli attacks that lead to civilian casualties by saying Hamas is using human shields is factually incorrect," she said.

The rocket fire from Gaza militants appeared to tail off somewhat Saturday, with a new round resuming later in the day. The "Iron Dome," a U.S.-funded, Israel-developed rocket defense system, has intercepted more than 130 incoming rockets, preventing any Israeli fatalities so far. A handful of Israelis have been wounded by rockets that slipped through.

The most seriously wounded Israeli resulted from a rocket that struck a gas station Friday in the southern city of Ashdod, setting off a huge explosion. A house in Beersheba suffered a direct hit though the family living there was not home.

As a precaution, the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv relocated its personnel assigned to Beersheba. However, militant rockets have reached farther into Israel than ever before, with air raid sirens sounding even in the northern city of Haifa, 100 miles away.

Iraqi Kurds take over 2 northern oil fields

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Kurdish security forces took over two major oil fields outside the disputed northern city of Kirkuk before dawn Friday and said they would use some of the production for domestic purposes, further widening a split with the central government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

The takeovers of the Bai Hassan and Kirkuk oil fields were the latest land grabs by Kurds, who have responded to the Sunni militant insurgency that has overrun large parts of Iraq by seizing territory of their own, effectively expanding the Kurdish autonomous zone in the north. Those moves have infuriated al-Maliki's government while stoking independence sentiment among the Kurds.

Kurdish fighters known as peshmerga pushed into the city of Kirkuk, a major hub for the oil industry in the north, and the surrounding area weeks ago in the early days of the Sunni militant blitz. But until now, they had not moved into the oil fields in the area. On Friday, however, the fighters took over the Bai Hassan and Kirkuk fields and expelled local workers, the Oil Ministry in Baghdad said.

Oil Ministry spokesman Assem Jihad denounced the move as "a violation to the constitution" and warned that it poses "a threat to national unity."

The Kurdish Regional Government said its forces moved to secure the fields after learning of what it said were orders by officials in the Oil Ministry to sabotage a pipeline linking oil facilities in the area. It said production would continue, and that staff can return but will operate under Kurdish management.

Production from the fields will be used to fill the shortage of refined products in the domestic market, it said, in a reference to a fuel crunch in the Kurdish region.

Meanwhile, Iraqi authorities said Saturday that 4,000 volunteers are being dispatched to an embattled city west of Baghdad to help bolster government forces fighting Sunni militants there. Gen. Rashid Flaigh, the commander of operations in Anbar province, said 2,500 of the reinforcements arrived Friday in Ramadi, and the rest were expected to arrive Saturday.

The majority of volunteers are Shites who answered a call from the country's top Shiite cleric to defend the country from the militants have seized control of much of northern and western Iraq.

Ramadi is the capital of Anbar, a predominantly Sunni province and one of the most active fronts in Iraq. Militants overran parts of Ramadi early this year before the government reasserted its control.

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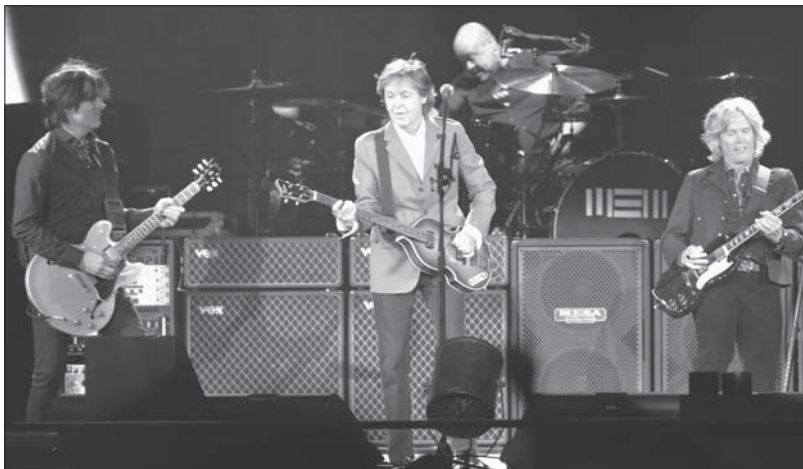
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OPINION



HANS PENNING, INVISION/AP

Sir Paul McCartney, center, performs with his band during the "Out There" Tour at Times Union Center in Albany, N.Y., on July 5.

New math on old rockers: When is Yes a no?

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Who’s left from the original lineup?” I posed the question to my longtime concert-going buddy when I heard the opening chords to “China Grove” in the midst of an encore. Onstage at Philadelphia’s Tower Theatre two weeks ago, with a banner reading “The Doobie Brothers,” behind them, were a half-dozen musicians who looked like a mirror image of much of the crowd, including us.

“Two,” replied Paul Lauricella, without need for deliberation, naming Tom Johnston and Patrick Simmons. He might be a trial lawyer by day, but ensconced in a rock hall, Paul is a walking encyclopedia. (That’s a half-dozen book set with information arranged alphabetically.) On this early summer eve, the Doobies were opening for Peter Frampton, who I’ve pretty much been seeing annually since the summer after ninth grade. That year, 1977, I was among 91,000 others at JFK Stadium for a concert advertised as a “High Noon,” with Frampton headlining a bill that included Lynnyrd Skynyrd and the J. Geils Band.

During the intermission, Paul and I perused the merchandise table in the Tower lobby, which included a Doobie Brothers multi-CD set called the “Farewell Tour” — as in, the 1983 farewell tour. Nearly two decades later, the music of the band’s incursion of Yes lacks legendary status. Yes, which will perform the albums “Fragile” and “Close to the Edge” in their entirety on July 19. Also on the wall was an ad for Styx, Foreigner and Don Felder (“formerly of the Eagles”) at the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, N.J.

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version of Foreigner also lacks its original frontman, Lou Gramm, who left the band in 2004.

Hoisting a few draft Yuenglings, we 50ish aging rockers debated the propriety of 60-plus aging rock musicians using the original band name when there are so few original members in the lineup.

I proposed a two-fifths rule, but Paul waved me off. As best I recall, his answer was something like: “You can’t do it with a simple mathematical analysis. You could just as easily say it’s enough if at least half the band’s members were with the original incarnation. But by that measure, Paul and Ringo can constitute a reunited Beatles, and those two guys currently calling themselves The Who would actually be The Who.”

He then promptly dismissed the three-fifths compromise I offered.

“By that count, the current iteration of Creedence Clearwater Revival would be the genuine article, notwithstanding the conspicuous absence of John Fogerty — arguably the voice, the sound, and the spirit of the group.”

So it’s the quality of the personnel that counts, not the quantity. Consider that the current touring version of Cheap Trick wants you to want them despite the absence of Bun E. Carlos (the drummer who resembled an overweight, chain-smoking algebra teacher), but you get vocalist Robin Zander, cartoon-genius guitarist Rick Nielsen, and bass impresario Tom Peterson. So for the band that brought us “Live at Budokan,” three-fourths of the group is enough to warrant a claim to authenticity based on the quality, not the 75 percent representation.

He’s got a point. Math would never carry the day for the band currently billing itself as Chicago. Yes, it includes four out of seven of the band’s members, but you’ll be spending Saturday in the park watching the four most generic members of the band: the horn section and occa-

sional vocalist Robert Lamm. The soul of the original band, Terry Kath (arguably rock’s most unrecognized guitarist), died of a self-inflicted gunshot to the head in 1977, and Peter Dinklage, the voice behind most of the group’s biggest hits, has been out of the band since Bush 41. This version of Chicago is as authentically Chicago as a slice of Pizzeria Uno. It is a Chicago cover band, much the way today’s Steve Perry-less Journey capably sounds like Journey without actually being Journey.

There’s nothing new about disputes over when the curtain should finally close on bands touring under a particular name. At one point in the 1990s, three bands were billing themselves as the Platters, including one with no connection to the original group. On the other hand, ‘60s perennials the Turtles are still happy together. The two originals — Flo and Eddie — have been carrying on for decades, despite sometimes not owning the rights to the name. They’ve earned the right to call themselves the Turtles.

Even ‘90s grunge kings Stone Temple Pilots recently toured without frontman Scott Weiland. STP without Weiland is like Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers without Tom Petty. Queen is another band touring with a new lead singer. Notwithstanding its likely spectacle, the Adam Lambert-fronted Queen is simply not Queen.

Good news is that this summer will also find Aerosmith on the road sporting the original Bostonians, including Steven Tyler and Joe Perry. The Eagles are doing a chronology tour with four-fifths of their classic lineup, while Rod Stewart, Petty and Paul McCartney will all be playing themselves at the arena near you.

At 72, Sir Paul may only be 80 percent of the rocker he once was, but four-fifths of Paul McCartney still constitutes 20 percent of the Beatles, and that’s all right.

Philadelphia inquirer columnist Michael Smerconish hosts “Smerconish” on CNN.

OPINION

Fix Wilberforce law to end influx of minors

By CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

Congress likes to put fancy titles on its legislative handiwork, but they should probably just call everything the Law of Unintended Consequences, especially immigration bills.

The 1965 Cuban Adjustment Act gave all people fleeing that communist island the right to legal residence once they reach U.S. soil. Over time, this evolved into the “wet foot, dry foot” policy, whereby the U.S. government could exclude a Cuban rafter caught in the surf off Key West — but not after he had touched the beach.

Many a desperate Cuban has perished at sea trying to avoid one U.S. agency, the Coast Guard, in hopes of reaching another U.S. agency, the one with the green cards, on land.

President George W. Bush signed the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act on Dec. 23, 2008, thinking he was fighting the global traffic in sex slaves, many of them children. The Democratic Congress that passed the bill agreed. Hence its title, an homage to 19th-century Britain’s greatest foe of the slave trade.

Half a decade later, the Wilberforce Act has mutated into a source of chaos, the victims of which are children, and the greatest beneficiaries, human traffickers.

This law’s special mistake was to guarantee an immigration hearing to unaccompanied minors arriving in the United States on the theory they might be victims of sex trafficking and to let them live with U.S.-based family, if any, until a judge was available.

Kids from next-door Mexico and Canada were excepted. But the bill’s authors apparently forgot about Central America or underestimated the desire of Central Americans who reside in the United States, with or without documents, to extract their children from violence and poverty back home, even at the risk of a dangerous journey north.

They failed to anticipate that trafficking



ERIC GAY/AP

A group of immigrants from Honduras and El Salvador who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border illegally are stopped in Granjeno, Texas, in June.

mafias in Mexico would market temporary entry pending the delayed hearings as a new form of “permiso” (“permit”) and can charge families \$10,000 per child to pursue it.

So, here we are: The Wilberforce Act, logical and humane on paper, has been overturned by an influx of Central American kids that reached 10,146 in fiscal 2012, 20,805 in fiscal 2013 and 39,133 between last October and June 15, according to the Los Angeles Times.

They’re sprawled on the floors of dingy detention centers across the Southwest — if they didn’t get lost, kidnapped or killed

during the 1,500-mile Middle Passage through Mexico. A boy from Guatemala, Gilberto Ramos, described variously as 11 or 15, recently perished near La Jota, Texas, while trying to get into the United States to earn money to help his mother.

If they do find their way to a stable home in the United States, the children will likely skip their far-in-the-future hearings and grow up undocumented, living in the shadows even under the version of immigration reform favored by President Barack Obama — though maybe we can look forward to a brutal political debate over legalizing them a decade from now.

This isn’t anyone’s idea of sustainable immigration; at least it shouldn’t be. Some call the situation a humanitarian crisis. I prefer “national scandal.”

Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and other senior officials have, belatedly, started countering trafficker misinformation in Central America. The president has a \$3.7 billion plan to provide housing, services and the due process call for under the Wilberforce Act.

Yet the key is to fix the Wilberforce Act: to permit prompt exclusion of unaccompanied Central American minors, as is already the case for Mexicans and (far less frequently) Canadians. Only by showing people there is nothing to be gained by paying traffickers for the traumatic voyage through Mexico will the chaos cease.

To his credit, Obama voiced support for such a measure. Less to his credit, he omitted it from his proposal to Congress after 200 activist organizations urged him to reconsider; they argued in an open letter that it would leave Central American children at the mercy of criminal gangs back home.

But it is a sad fact the U.S. government returns migrants to horrible situations every day. Just ask the 1,357 Cuban rafters the Coast Guard plucked from the Caribbean in fiscal 2013. The gang problem is a perennial one in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, not new. By the way, the United States is no perfect safe haven; Central American criminal organizations operate in several big cities.

Those who defend the status quo are defending a system that was well-intended but has proven to be riddled with loopholes that enrich criminal gangs, endanger children and, not incidentally, promote political backlash against immigration — which the United States needs — by associating it in the public mind with border chaos.

The rule of law is one of the benefits immigrants seek in the United States. Step one in dealing with the border crisis should be to re-establish it.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post’s editorial board.

Clinton’s at a crossroads created by Wall Street

By HAROLD MEYERSON

Which Hillary Rodham Clinton would run for — and, more important, govern as — president? The onetime New York senator whom many Wall Street bankers supported and former secretary of state who gave speeches to Goldman Sachs and others for a reported \$200,000 per? Or the leader of an increasingly progressive Democratic Party, who, in an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel last week, affirmed the thesis of economist Thomas Piketty? “I think he makes a very strong case that we have unbalanced our economy too much towards favored capital and away from labor,” she said.

Friend or foe of Wall Street? On the one hand, it was Clinton’s husband who entrusted the nation’s economic policymaking to former Goldman Sachs executive Robert Rubin, who, along with subsequent Treasury secretaries Lawrence Summers and Timothy Geithner, promoted an agenda of free trade, deregulation and privileging the interests of big banks over all others. On the other, as a senator, Clinton called for tougher regulations on derivatives and said that “Wall Street has played a significant role” in the subprime mortgage disaster — and she did so in 2007, one year

before the great collapse.

What makes Clinton’s predicament particularly significant is that it’s not hers alone. For decades, the default position of generations of Democrats has been to back economic policies that helped ordinary Americans — higher minimum wages, the right to unionize, spending on infrastructure — without reining in banks, corporations and the wealth beyond the basic constraints laid down by the New Deal. They could do this for one fundamental reason: Economic growth in the United States was largely equitable; prosperity was broadly shared.

When President John F. Kennedy famously declared that “a rising tide lifts all boats,” he was not merely describing how the economy worked in the pre-globalization and highly unionized United States of the post-World War II decades. He was also, however inadvertently, explaining how the relative absence of class conflict enabled Democrats to be both pro-union and a friend of financial elites, who were not yet accruing all the proceeds of growth for themselves.

But that was then.

Today, as Clinton told Der Spiegel, capital has eclipsed labor. Fully 95 percent of the nation’s income growth since the

recovery began in 2009, University of California economist Emmanuel Saez has shown, has gone to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. The share of the country’s gross domestic product going to profits is at a record high; the share going to wages a record low.

Under these conditions, what’s a Democrat — what’s Hillary Clinton — to do? How does she propose to re-create a United States where the gains in productivity go not only to the largest shareholders but also to the workers who make those gains?

She could, for starters, propose cutting taxes on employers who raise wages in line with the nation’s annual productivity increase, and raising the levy on employers who don’t. She could propose hiking taxes on capital gains and dividends at least to the level of taxes on work-derived income. She could propose cutting taxes on corporations that divide their boards equally between representatives of shareholders and employees, as the Germans do, and raising the tax rates of corporations that don’t, that are run almost solely for the benefit of their large shareholders and their top executives — as most U.S. corporations are.

Immodest proposals, to be sure, but in an economy in which nearly all the income growth accrues to a sliver of investors,

Democrats no longer have the luxury of indulging both that sliver and everybody else. As Clinton’s proto-candidacy continues to take shape, one modest way that she could begin to address the scourge of inequality would be to follow the example of Franklin Roosevelt.

In selecting his Treasury secretary, Roosevelt opted not to choose Sen. Carter Glass, in part because Glass wanted a J.P. Morgan executive as his deputy. As Adam Cohen documents in “Nothing to Fear,” his history of Roosevelt’s first 100 days as president, Roosevelt told his aide Raymond Moley, “We simply cannot go along with Twenty-Three.” (The Morgan bank was headquartered at 23 Wall St.)

Expanded from 23 to the rest of the street, that’s pretty good guidance for our next president, whom we may see. Wall Street veterans aren’t likely to see Wall Street’s ascendancy over the rest of the economy as a problem. The cure for Clinton’s, and the Democrats’, identity crisis begins with a clear declaration that the nation’s economy will no longer be entrusted to the leaders of the very institutions that have brought it low.

Harold Meyerson is editor-at-large of The American Prospect. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

LIFESTYLE



Duncan Stephenson holds jewelry pieces he designed in his Raleigh, N.C., home. He cites African and South American tinsmiths and goldsmiths as influences for his designs.

PHOTOS BY JULI LEONARD, (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/MCT

A man of many

METALS

Jewelry, goods 'maker' influenced by tin, goldsmiths

By JULI LEONARD
The News & Observer

Duncan Stephenson of Horn & Heel doesn't call himself an artist; instead, he prefers the term "maker."

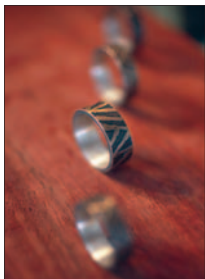
Stephenson makes jewelry and metal goods at his Raleigh, N.C., home. His adornments range from necklaces and rings to bolo ties and boot pieces.

Stephenson started out as a business major at East Carolina University, but was drawn to art. He tried working in different mediums, but metal captured his focus from the beginning.

"I like fabricating," he said. "I like creating something that is real and tangible. That's why I like jewelry, because you can wear it and it is a real thing that you can interact with."

Stephenson went on to graduate from ECU with a bachelor of fine arts, with a concentration in metal design focusing on jewelry work.

Although Stephenson cites sci-fi movies, comic books and Batman as early influences, his



Rings handcrafted by Stephenson, who appreciates the tangible quality of jewelry.

aesthetic has grown more sophisticated. His pieces reflect his interest in the "juxtaposition between blatantly hand-drawn pieces with human error that are put on a pedestal rather than hidden but on a very clean crisp surface that is well-constructed and

See more of Duncan Stephenson's work
hornandheel.com



well-fabricated."

His adornment pieces represent layers of work and are created in a multistep process that includes hand-drawn patterns, saltwater etching bath, copper plating, blackening and sanding. Prices for his works range from \$15 to \$350. He also forges knives.

"I'm a huge fan of African and South American tinsmiths and goldsmiths that were only using one hammer that's been passed down through four generations and a rock and some sand," Stephenson said. "And they make amazingly crafted pieces, but they are still rough and raw and dirty because they were working with only the tools they had."

"I like bouncing between those two (elements) because I went to a fine art school and I know how to be nice and clean and crisp in my craftsmanship, but also have the 'hand-done-I've-touched-every-piece' feeling to everything."



Stephenson draws designs on jewelry pieces at his desk. In addition to jewelry, he also forges knives and other metal goods.

MUSIC

First-half report: Music streaming more than selling

By RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

One brutal truth emerges from Nielsen SoundScan's report on trends in the music industry for the first half of 2014: Today's consumers are far more interested in seeing and hearing pop music than buying it.

Album sales dropped nearly 15 percent compared with the same period last year, and overall music consumption, which combines sales and streaming activity, dropped 3.3 percent, according to figures released by the sales and streaming monitoring service.

But taken individually, on-demand streaming of music and videos showed a combined increase of 42 percent during the first half of this year, with video streaming up 35 percent and audio streaming jumping more than 50 percent compared with 2013.

"With on-demand streams surpassing 70 billion songs in the first six months of 2014, streaming continues to be an increasingly significant portion of the music industry," Nielsen Entertainment senior vice president David Bakula said in a statement. "Streaming's 42 percent year-over-year growth and vinyl LPs' 40 percent increase over last year's record-setting pace shows interest in buying and consuming music continues to be robust, with two very distinct segments of the industry expanding substantially."

VINYL STILL SURGING

The only area in which sales increased was those of vinyl albums, which still represent a tiny portion of the overall music business. The continuing resurgence of consumer interest in vinyl was reflected in the 40.4 percent increase in units, from 2.9 million in the first half of 2013 to 4 million so far this year. That's just 3 percent of total album sales of 120.9 million units during 2014, combining CDs, cassettes, LPs and digital albums. The best-selling vinyl title of the year to date is Jack White's "Lazaretto," which sold 49,100 12-inch discs.



ONLY ONE MILLION SELLER

Little else in the report gives those in the music business much to celebrate. Just one album, the runaway hit "Frozen" soundtrack, has sold more than 1 million copies during the first half of this year. "Frozen" has logged 2.7 million copies during the calendar year, and just pushed past the 3 million units mark overall in North America since its Nov. 25 release. In second place is Beyoncé's "Beyoncé," another 2013 release. The album has tallied just over 700,000 copies sold in the year's first six months. Five of the top 10 sellers have not reached gold status of 500,000 copies.

'HAPPY' IS STILL HUGE

Among digital songs, it's no surprise that the biggest seller is Pharrell Williams' ubiquitous "Happy," which sold 5.6 million downloads. "Frozen" is also the best-selling digital album, with just over 1 million downloads in 2014.



STREAM ON

Streaming numbers are considerably more robust. "Dark Horse," the Katy Perry single featuring Juicy J, racked up more than 65 million audio streams and almost 123 million video streams. Four other songs scored more than 50 million audio streams apiece: John Legend's "All of Me" (59.4), Williams' "Happy" (54.2), Bastille's "Pompeii" (50.7) and Jason Derulo featuring 2 Chainz' "Talk Dirty" (50.1). Idina Menzel's performance of "Let It Go" from "Frozen" was the top video, logging 93.5 million streams.

Crazy enough to work

Thicke just might win back wife, old fans with new album

It's easy to fall in line with the crowd that believes Robin Thicke's attempt to win back his wife by calling his new album "Paula" is desperate and ridiculous.

In some ways it is. But if we're judging strictly on the music — and not on the over-the-top, awkward and somewhat creepy public pleas by Thicke everywhere from the BET Awards to the Billboard Music Awards — Paula Patton might want to reconsider.

The 14-track "Paula," where Thicke spills his feelings, confesses his sins and insists he's a changed man, is a return to Thicke's R&B roots. It is also a reminder that he was a talented, Grammy-winning singer-songwriter pre-"Blurred Lines" hysteria. The sexy number "You're My Fantasy" helps the



Robin Thicke

Paula (Interscope)

the horn-heavy "Love Can Grow Back" is a winner.

Thicke ditched the glossy electro beats and catchy hooks on last year's "Blurred Lines" for a more stripped-down, acoustic and simple sound on "Paula" — a much bet-

ter fit for the 37-year-old crooner.

"Blurred Lines" made Thicke an international star and helped him tap into a younger audience that constantly streams music, buys digital tracks and can determine today and tomorrow's next pop star. But the song has also been a bit of a curse: It has pigeon-holed Thicke, propelled him to one-hit-wonder status (despite having success in the past) and alienated the singer from the R&B fans who help him reach platinum status. And the tracks on "Paula" don't sound like songs that will play on Top 40 radio per se.

"Get Her Back," the smooth lead single, was slow to debut on the Billboard Hot 100, but the song is still a winner: Even if he doesn't get Paula back, his old fans will return.

— Mesfin Fekadu
The Associated Press



MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Courtesy of Atlantic Records

Tired of Robin Thicke? Try the latest from Trey Songz, above.

Trey Songz

Trigga (Songbook/Atlantic)

The awkward interviews. The harsh reviews. The Twitter Q&A in which he was asked why he continues "to be such a creep."

Last week wasn't great for Robin Thicke, the R&B star whose new album "Paula" — about his attempt to win back his estranged wife, Paula Patton — sold only 24,000 units in its debut week in the U.S. (Thicke's previous record, "Blurred Lines," debuted with 177,000.)

But as the old saying goes — well, sort of — a sinking ship lifts all the other boats floating in the same body of water.

So here comes Trey Songz, reportedly headed toward No. 1 with the strongest album of his career. A soul-music journeyman known for his imaginative sex jams, Songz has established himself in the R&B world. Yet he's never quite broken through to a mainstream audience, something he might finally be poised to do.

If that's the case, he hasn't cleaned up his act. "Trigga," the singer's sixth studio album, is delightfully raunchy, with bedroom talk that ranges from the efficiently straightforward to the impressively elaborate.

"Cake" lands in the middle — it's an etymological inquiry wrapped in a transparent dessert-related metaphor. "They say you can't have cake and eat it too," he sings, "But ain't that what you supposed to do?"

Elsewhere he details his predilection for women from other countries ("Foreign") and admires the sight of a lover "cooking naked, eggs and some bacon" ("All We Do"). In "Touchin, Lovin'" he outlines a seduction, moving through the actions ad-



vertised in the song's title before borrowing an unprintable — and far more blunt — phrase from the Notorious B.I.G.

Even at his crudest, though, Songz remains likable, a function of his pleading tenor as well as his savvy presentation. In "Change Your Mind," he takes up his reputation as the love-'em-and-leave-'em type, telling a woman, "Saying I'm bad for you, that's fine/Sometimes bad is a good time." And he invites Justin Bieber to join him for a remix of "Foreign," which in a surely intended consequence makes Songz sound like the picture of cosmopolitan suavity.

"Just got back from Africa, I swear I saw 'bout 50,000 queens," he sings. And Bieber? "Shout out Miami," offers the teen-pop star, "for having so many foreign babes."

"Trigga" matches Songz's sense of sophistication with immersive production, as in "SmartPhones," a shimmering electro-soul track overlaid with gorgeous multi-tracked harmonies.

Like all of "Trigga," it's recommended to R&B fans skeeved out by "Paula" — including (perhaps in particular) Patton herself.

—Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times

Phish

Fuego (ATO Records)

For a band that made its name on being able to interact with one another while playing live, Phish has had a hard time translating that collaborative interplay in the studio.

They succeeded on "Fuego," the Vermont quartet's first studio release in five years. It's a fun, spirited, rocking record that has a cohesiveness largely lacking on Phish releases in recent years.

It actually sounds like they're having fun — together.

On the nine-minute title track and opener "Fuego," band members trade lead vocals and harmonize on a driving tune with



Phish at its musical best, even though the lyrics are largely nonsensical.

"Sing Monica" and "Devotion to a Dream" bounce along with the catchiest of Phish songs.

"Wombat" is a weird stinker in most respects, but so what? It sounds like they were having a blast recording it, especially the references to "Barney Miller," or as they call it on the song — the Phish TV show starring Abe Vigoda (for those who don't recall, his character was named Fish).

The most intriguing song on the 10-track set, "The Line," focuses on the story of University of Memphis basketball player Darius Washington, Jr., as he steps to the line to take three free throws to decide the 2005 Conference USA tournament.

It's quirky and rocks at the same time. But that's Phish. That's "Fuego."

—Scott Bauer
The Associated Press



PETER YANG/Courtesy of The Fun Star

The members of jam band Phish — from left: Mike Gordon, Trey Anastasio, Jon Fishman and Page McConnell — get back to doing what they do best on their new album, "Fuego."

Sia

1000 Forms of Fear (RCA)

Since Sia's last album, 2010's top-notch "We Are Born," the performer has written songs for Beyoncé, Rihanna and Katy Perry, co-starred on hits with David Guetta and Flo Rida, and achieved her first solo U.S. success with the Top 20 hit "Chandelier."

America's finally caught on to the ultra-talented Sia, and the Australian singer-songwriter stretches her boundaries even further on her sixth release, "1000 Forms of Fear."

Sia's album contains some of the eerie but addictive material she's known for: "Big Girls Cry" builds from a soft verse to a mem-



Sia is heartbroken on the album, and she has mastered how to tell her story on the 14-track set. But the singer isn't also down: The thematic "Chandelier" is one of the year's best pop songs, where Sia's scratchy and loud voice shines. The dance jam sounds like a tune Sia could have given to Rihanna or another contemporary pop act — but thankfully she didn't.

Other songs on "1000 Forms of Fear" are similar to the material Sia has crafted for others, from Christina Aguilera to Kylie Minogue to Brinyey Spears. But luckily the singer saves the best songs for herself.

—Mesfin Fekadu
The Associated Press

orable chorus, and she repeats that song's refrain on the downtempo ballad, "Straight for the Knife," another highlight. "Eye of the Needle" is just one more example of her musical prowess.

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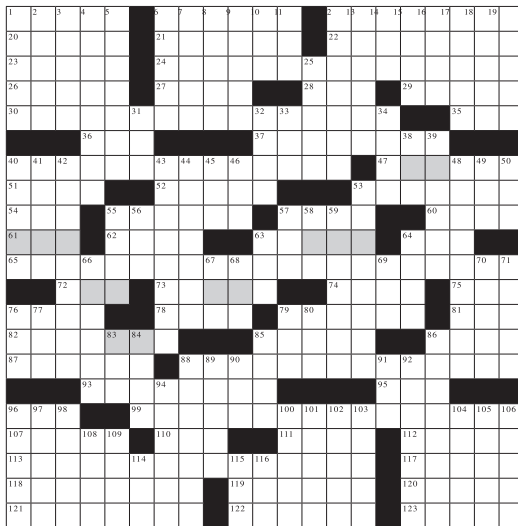
CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

OH, SAY ...

BY DANIEL C. BRYANT / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Serving edges
- 6 Husband one's energy, say
- 12 General servant
- 20 Salle de bain fixture
- 21 Enunciate slowly
- 22 Get to
- 23 First U.S. multimillionaire
- 24 Lawyer who wrote 65-Across
- 26 Land's end?
- 27 Throw up
- 28 Sound of expiration
- 29 Skiing destination
- 30 Year 24-Across wrote 65-Across
- 35 Any knight
- 36 Jan. 1 till now
- 37 Crayola color akin to fern
- 40 What the music to 65-Across was, originally
- 47 Some American Indian homes
- 51 As it happens
- 52 Better to a rapper, worse to a patient
- 53 Herbal Essences shampoo company
- 54 Standoffish
- 55 Fixed things?
- 57 James Douglas Muir ____ (TV host's birth name)
- 60 Looking up
- 61 Sun: Sp.
- Antian walkway
- 63 Four-time N.B.A. All-Star Pau
- 64 Farm female
- 65 This puzzle's theme, whose first notes are indicated by shaded squares
- 72 Cactus, to Sartre, for many years
- 73 Blood-related
- 74 Sports org. founded in 1906
- 75 Book-jacket staple
- 76 It's bound to be turned
- 78 Beginner for a while?
- 79 Star in the Summer Triangle
- 81 "I should ____ die with pity. / To see another thus": Shak.
- 82 Country whose national currency is the U.S. dollar
- 85 French evenings
- 86 "Essays of ____"
- 87 What the curious may do
- 88 Performer who gave a memorable rendition of 65-Across in 1991
- 93 Setting of James Clavell's "Gai-Jin"
- 95 G.O.P. org.
- 96 Gator's tail?
- 99 Mission that 24-Across was on when he wrote 65-Across
- 107 He prophesied the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
- 110 N.Y.C. subway mts.
- 111 Cloth for a man of the cloth?
- 112 "The Tempest"
- 113 Where 24-Across was inspired to write 65-Across
- 117 It handles letters
- 118 Later
- 119 Best Actor nominee for "Venus," 2006
- 120 Vanilla
- 121 Inked
- 122 Symbols of change
- 123 Gossip
- DOWN**
- 1 Demcan
- 2 They're thrown in decalions
- 3 It may have a pet name
- 4 Greenhorn
- 5 Overlapping fugue motifs
- 6 Long arm
- 7 "America's most innovative company" prior to its bankruptcy in 2001
- 8 Locale for this puzzle's shaded squares
- 9 Sidekick of TV and film
- 10 Where Michael Jordan played college ball: Abbv.
- 11 Louvre pyramid designer
- 12 Bit of spawn
- 13 Sagittarius, with "the"
- 14 ____ Magnon
- 15 New World monkey
- 16 Giant Mel and Pirate Ed
- 17 Film units
- 18 Birth places?
- 19 ____ Wolfshiem, gambler in "The Great Gatsby"
- 25 Old Nick
- 31 MS, managers
- 32 Initialism in a Beatles title
- 33 Old car company based in Lansing, Mich.
- 34 Oscar-winning Patricia
- 38 Anthon LeShan
- 39 Wrinkle-free, say
- 40 Second-rate
- 41 Big copier maker
- 42 Penn station?
- 43 Their, singularly
- 44 Crowd ____
- 45 Last: Abbr.
- 46 Wauna ____
- 48 High level in karate
- 49 Counterpart of Aurora
- 50 Winking, maybe
- 53 Money in hand
- 55 Italian province or its capital
- 56 "Come ____": (Italian greeting)
- 57 Tarry
- 58 Immigrant's subj.
- 59 "Stay out"
- 63 Health supplement co.
- 64 River of western Germany
- 66 Like muscara in the rain
- 67 Some natl. leaders
- 68 River isle



- 69 Political writer
- 70 Farm refrain
- 71 Farrow of MSNBC
- 76 Oomph
- 77 See 79-Down
- 79 Get an ____ (77-Down)
- 80 Bit of flimflam
- 83 God: It.
- 84 Peeling potatoes, perhaps
- 85 Title name in a 2000 Eminem hit
- 86 Salad green
- 88 Sounded like a fan
- 89 Speed
- 90 Texter's qualification
- 91 "The Hobbit" figure
- 92 Blue
- 94 Player in orange and black
- 96 Scope
- 97 Princess played by Naomi Watts
- 98 Brilliance
- 100 Flynn of old film
- 101 Metal worker?
- 102 Menace named after an African river
- 103 City whose name was the source of the word "sherry"
- 104 Jewish month
- 105 "See?"
- 106 Justice Kagan
- 108 Periodic table abbr.
- 109 Sunshine cracker
- 114 "O Sole ____"
- 115 Brick transporter
- 116 Absorbed

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Get your fair share from our award-winning journalists at Stripes.com/blogs.

GADGETS & CHARTS

Secret of karaoke: Confidence is key

By HEATHER SCHROERING
Chicago Tribune

Josh Robertson's first karaoke experience was a disaster. He took the stage and hit the first line of David Bowie's "Golden Years." Nailed it. Drawing a blank on the second line, he looked to the television where the lyrics appear, and the screen was black. His golden moment ended in woes.

"When I walked on, I think I unplugged the TV from the wall," Robertson said, 15 years later.

Now a co-host of a weekly themed karaoke night at The Twilight Lounge in Dallas, Robertson, aka DJ Hammertize, 39, has some advice for first-time performers. And if you think you can't sing, he's got suggestions for you, too.

Come prepared. Choose a few songs that are within your vocal range beforehand and listen to them to familiarize yourself. Even if you think you know a song, some could be harder to perform than expected.

"The hardest thing to deal with is to watch somebody turn around while you're running karaoke, and they look at you with this look of helplessness," Robertson said.

When selecting a song, shorter tracks are better to keep the crowd engaged. Some genres don't translate well. Avoid hip-hop and rap songs, "unless you know it backwards and forwards ... because you're basically the whole song, and there's no time to take a breath," he said.

Heavy metal, hardcore punk and screamo also fall into that category. "It's hard to see that violent aggression come across when you don't have a band behind you, and you're just a dude who just got off work."

Keep it light. Nothing sucks the energy out of the room more than when the performer is crying over an ex. Robertson suggests staying away from serious songs, angry breakup songs, pre-song dedications to the deceased or someone who isn't in the room, and wedding toasts. "It's hard to have karaoke and a therapy session at the same time," he said. "You don't go to a restaurant full of strangers and tell everyone your worst problems, so you can't lay all of your problems on a karaoke audience."

There's safety in numbers, so bringing backup singers doesn't hurt. Robertson says no more than three people on stage at a time.

Be confident. "If they can't hit a note, but they can do it with conviction and enjoy themselves, that's all that matters," Robertson said. Sing into the microphone, and if you mess it up, keep going. Don't walk off in defeat. "When all you hear is the backup track by the end of the song, that's the worst feeling."

Have fun. Taking yourself too seriously sets you up for failure. Remember, karaoke is a social event. "For me, it has to be fun," Robertson said. "Fun doesn't mean I just saw the best singer I've ever seen in my life. There's just as much fun in (messing up) as there is in nailing a song perfectly. That's the perspective that you have to take."

ON THE COVER: Caesar the ape is back, and this time his kind are the top species, in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes."

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION/AP

GADGET WATCH

Microlab speaker system rocks on a bass level

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Making the right choice for a wireless speaker system can be mind-numbing with the endless choices. Look — or listen — no further than the Microlab FC60BT.

Before I opened the Microlab sound system, I read the press release, which describes it as an "audio wireless Bluetooth/NFC 2.1 Subwoofer Speaker System, featuring Microlab's patented HC2D technology, a powerful subwoofer, and two advanced stereo satellite SQ speakers without enclosures for crystal clear sound without harmonic distortions or vibrations that often happen when speakers are enclosed."

I can't say it any better, but to translate that into something understandable, this system rocks the house.

All I had to do to get this baby in working condition was get it in the house (which wasn't easy, since the box weighed more than 50 pounds), open it up and turn it on.

The system consists of a white acrylic subwoofer and two futuristic-looking, see-through stereo speakers.

The 8-inch subwoofer with a built-in amplifier gives you just the right amount of bass.

Your audio source connects via Bluetooth 4.0, or if you are near field communication-compatible, there's also a direct connection option with a 3.5 mm port.

Microlab is a company that specializes in achieving incredible audio with no distortion. In this case, that proved true even with 105 watts of power at head-banging levels.

This is achieved with the patented HC2D technology, which means it's made for the highest clarity possible at any distance.

A 360-degree remote control is included and works from anywhere in the room to change tunes, volume and the bass level.

I'll also add, while the sound is amazing, the system looks great.

Online: microlab.com; \$449

The Wicked Audio Divvy is an audio splitter designed so two people can listen to the same audio with each having an independent volume control.

It's pocket-sized, it will work with most devices, and there's no setup. Just plug in the single 3.5 mm end into a headphone port and start listening at your comfortable volume levels.

There no batteries or recharging; it works on its own from the output of your audio source.

Online: wickedaudio.com; \$99.99



The MOS Reach Power Everywhere AC/USB extension, though still in the Kickstarter stage, caught my attention. The product is great, and its funding goal of \$50,000 had almost been doubled by press time, ensuring its success.

Power is something we all need for our computers, printers, smartphones, tablets and other devices, and this device comes to the rescue.

Just because there's a power outlet in your room or cubicle doesn't mean it's accessible. The MOS Reach is cleverly designed to not be obstructed by furniture with a right-angle plug to fit into any standard AC outlet.

The plug is attached to a 3-foot cable, which ends with a power supply made of ABS/polycarbonate. It has a standard three-prong AC plug and two high-powered USB ports.

The sides of the power supply have two built-in super-powered neodymium magnets on each side to hold the connecting end of many USB charging cables.

With the help of adhesives, the power supply box can be secured on walls, desks or the floor.

Online: mosorganizer.com. The regular Kickstarter price is \$30 and the expected retail price will be \$45 for an estimated fall launch.



The MOS Reach is cleverly designed to not be obstructed by furniture. Its right-angle plug fits into any standard AC outlet.

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for July 9:

1. "1000 Forms of Fear," Sia
2. "3 AM," The EP, Jacob Whitesides
3. "x" (deluxe edition), Ed Sheeran
4. "In the Lonely Hour" (Deluxe version), Sam Smith
5. "Don't Kill the Magic," MAGGIC
6. "Redeemer of Souls" (deluxe version), Judas Priest
7. "Frazen" (original motion picture soundtrack), various artists
8. "Somewhere Under Wonderland" (deluxe version), Counting Crow
9. "5 Seconds of Summer" (bonus track version), 5 Seconds of Summer
10. "Ghost Stories," Coldplay

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from June 30/July 6:

1. "Rude," MAGGIC
2. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
3. "Problem," Ariana Grande
4. "Summer," Calvin Harris
5. "Am I Wrong," NICO & VINZ
6. "Lata," Disclosure
7. "Wiggle" (feat. Snoop Dogg), Jason Derulo
8. "Maps," Maroon 5
9. "Class," MKTO
10. "Wasted," Tiesti

— Compiled by Spotify

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for July 9:

1. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
2. "Bad Words"
3. "Rio 2"
4. "The LEGO Movie"
5. "Sabotage"
6. "Lone Survivor"
7. "The Grand Budapest Hotel"
8. "Heaven Is for Real"
9. "300: Rise of an Empire"
10. "Non-Stop"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the Top 10 games for July:

1. Mario Kart 8, Wii U
2. Shovel Knight, Wii U, PC, 3DS
3. Transistor, PS4, PC
4. Wolfenstein: The New Order, PS4, Xbox One, PC
5. Watch Dogs, PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
6. Ultra Street Fighter IV, PS3, 360, PC
7. Tropico 5, PC
8. EA Sports UFC, PS4, Xbox One
9. Another World: 20th Anniversary Edition, Xbox One, Wii U, PC, 3DS, iOS
10. Kero Blaster, PC, iOS

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for July 9:

ANDROID

1. Kim Kardashian: Hollywood
2. Transformers Age of Extinction
3. Sick Death
4. Angry Birds Epic
5. The Walking Dead: Season Two

Top 5 free apps for July 9:

APPLE

1. Guess the Emoji
2. No One Dies Today
3. Fit the Fat
4. Kim Kardashian: Hollywood
5. Watercolors

— Compiled by MCT

BOOKS

'Jennifer, Gwyneth & Me'

Author mimics lifestyles of celebrities to find happiness

By BROOKE LEFFERTS
The Associated Press

Author and celebrity-watcher Rachel Bertsche spent nearly a year emulating the lifestyles of several famous female stars, seeking contentment, productivity and better arms.

Her new book, "Jennifer, Gwyneth & Me: The Pursuit of Happiness, One Celebrity at a Time," is "The Happiness Project" meets People magazine.

Most celebrities have devotees as well as haters, and this book — like the A-listers it covers — will likely face both. Some will hail it as a fun, thought-provoking, self-improvement memoir, while critics might call it self-indulgent and shallow.

There might be some readers who find the idea of taking life advice from celebrities questionable, but Bertsche — a journalist and former editor at Oprah Winfrey's magazine — creates a voice that is self-deprecating and reliable. She knows her target female audience, and her research and writing skills make it an easy read.

Throughout the book, Bertsche asks why women (including herself) are fascinated by celebrities and often see them as role models. Each of the eight chapters focuses on one celebrity's particular assets and expertise, in an area the author would like to tackle to lift her self-esteem.

"A complete overhaul is too overwhelming. You don't always know where to start. Comparing yourself to others isn't necessarily the healthiest method of self-improvement but if it's impetus to get started, is that so wrong?" Bertsche asks.

Bertsche is thoughtful about her goals in the project, honest about her successes and failures, and reflective about the results. She studies Jennifer Aniston's eating habits and exercise regimens to feel better about her body, looks to Sarah Jessica Parker for fash-

ion tips and envies Beyonce's ability to work, parent and love gracefully.

Taking cues from stars' lifestyles posed challenges. It's easy to complain that stars have more money and access, but Bertsche gets creative by bartering baby-sitting and copy writing for a gym membership, and modifying recipes and clothing choices to save money.

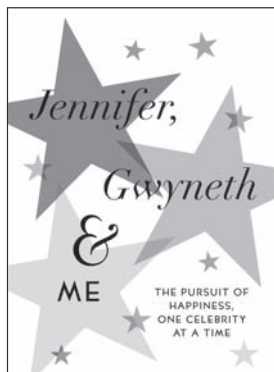
Bertsche's experiment also suggests that even the fabulous are flawed. When trying to follow Gwyneth Paltrow's food rules and cooking techniques, Bertsche points out the unrealistic amount of time and money the actress' habits require, and fails her seven-day detox cleanse after two days of drinking a smoothie that tastes like "sweet earwax."

Bertsche offers some valuable tips — from how to create a signature style to how to nail Tina Fey's work ethic (hint: boycott social media and always carry a notebook). But the chapters on simulating the spark in Jennifer Garner's marriage to Ben Affleck, and following Julia Roberts' way of meditating to get more Zen, seem like guesswork.

The book would have more teeth if Bertsche had been able to interview any of the celebrities she writes about to get their take on whether their choices and routines actually lead to happiness. Instead, she relies on Google searches, magazine interviews and many assumptions for information.

Woven into the narrative of her celebrity makeovers, Bertsche shares intimate details, including her determination to get pregnant despite fertility problems. Although she knows she has much to be thankful for in her life, her candor about her professional and personal disappointments adds another layer to her story.

At the beginning of the book, she's been laid off, and distracted by her desire for a baby, zapped of energy and motivation. "I had all the time in the world but I wasn't getting any-



thing done," she says.

Following the celebrity formulas gives her structure and accountability, leading to "enthusiasm, drive and purpose." By the end, she's exercising regularly, eating healthy food, working more efficiently, dressing better and meditating — making her life accomplished, and maybe a few inches closer to Aniston's famously coveted arms.

Bertsche says her efforts have made her feel like a better version of herself. Sure, it took a little navel gazing and celebrity worship to get there, but maybe that's what self-help for the selfie generation looks like. If you've ever had a celebrity girl crush, stick "Jennifer, Gwyneth & Me" in your beach bag. Bertsche is your people.

'Fathers' is an angry take on changing world

By HENRY C. JACKSON
The Associated Press

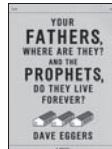
Dave Eggers is angry. A writer both beloved and criticized for his distinctly sentimental bursts, he appears to be seething, worried about crumbling institutions, lost privacy, diminished intimacy and humanity in general.

At least, that's the impression left after digesting Eggers' new, characteristically inventive novel, "Your Fathers, Where Are They? And the Prophets, Do They Live Forever?"

"Fathers" comes on the heels of two recent Eggers books that have edged around the idea that something is fundamentally broken in American society. "The Daylight Marriage" is screaming, bleating cry for society to fix itself. It is a frothing, angry, mournful meditation on what is slipping away as America plows on into the 21st century.

"Thomas" is a youngish man who has been badly shaken by what, we learn, is a society he feels has failed him. Thomas feels wronged, and he is struggling to understand why institutions big and small — NASA, the police, his mother — have failed him and crumbled all around him. Things have gotten quite desperate: As the novel begins, Thomas has kidnapped an astronaut, Kev, and chained him to a post on an abandoned military base somewhere in California. Thomas' goal, if he is to be believed, is not to hurt Kev or anyone else but to ask some important questions; to figure out this mess.

Eggers' decision to make "Fathers" a continuous dialogue is an interesting one. It intensifies the already manic qualities of his protagonist, Thomas, and makes for a lightning-quick read. But it has shortcomings — so much dialogue makes exposition difficult to execute without having it feel heavily stage-managed. Some of the dialogue doesn't really ring true, doesn't feel at all that real. It adds to the feeling that the point of this novel seems to be that it has an important point to make and not so much to tell a story. The plot is almost an appendage, albeit a compelling and at times suspenseful one.



Sink your teeth into page-turner 'The Quick'

By JOY TIPPING
The Dallas Morning News

Two summers ago, I struggled to write a review of Gillian Flynn's "Gone Girl," an astonishingly good book that is virtually impossible to discuss without giving away its biggest, most enjoyable twist. Now along comes England's Lauren Owen with her accomplished debut, "The Quick," and I face the same problem.

I suspect the novel's game-changing 100-pages-in-revelation will get out rather ... er, quickly. This book thoroughly deserves the huge attention it's going to get, though, so you may not be able to avoid the spoiler. Consider yourself warned.

"The Quick" centers on close-knit siblings James Norbury and his sister, Charlotte. As the book opens, the socially awk-

ward James, a would-be writer, makes it London after finishing his degree at Oxford. Poor sister Charlotte, feeling deserted, remains behind on their family's decrepit country estate.

During James' last days at Oxford, he overhears a pair of lovers in the library involved in a whispered tryst. His post-imagination takes over: "Another kiss," Owen writes, describing James' eavesdropping enticement. "He would be fair also, James thought — barely older than she, innocents both, Daphnis and Chloe in a gray-green forest of books. The lovers, as he had seen them in many different names and guises, in many stories and songs."

He's brought out of his romantic reverie by the girl's sneeze, a noise himself and gets caught. "You may as well come out," the man says. "We can hear you breathing."

That might seem like a throw-away line, but it turns out to be the most important distinction among the major characters in the book: Some are breathing, or "quick," as in the Bible's distinc-

tion between "the quick and the dead," and many, in the worst possible way, are not.

Once in London, James ends up sharing rooms with Christopher Paige, the "Daphnis" of the Oxford library meeting. James vicariously enjoys the trappings of Christopher's family wealth, and the Paige introduces James to the mysterious Aegleus Club (named for a small genus of owls), among whose members lurk some of the city's most influential and ambitious men.

Charlotte, meanwhile, eagerly awaits every next letter from James. Then the correspondence comes to a dead stop, and James becomes unreachable. Panicked, Charlotte travels to London in search of him, and what she finds completely, to use present-day vernacular, blows her mind (as it will readers'). She's soon immersed in a blood-drenched search for not only her brother, but for justice and a semblance of sanity.

It's a rare pleasure to see Charlotte blossom from timidly terrified to kick-but heroine. Early on, she thinks, "Mrs. Chickering had

warned her about London. Take the wrong turning, choose the wrong side of Regent Street, and one was lost. The streets would soil one's shoes and stain one's skirts; there were pickpockets and foreigners and Irish dynamiters and who knew what else." Indeed. Toward the end of the book, though, Charlotte barges straight into the heart of darkness, risking death (and worse) for the sake of her brother and others.

Charlotte and James form the heart of the book, but Owen spins marvelous venous and arterial characters around them, among them a love interest for Charlotte, a female rope walker turned demon-hunting vigilante and a nonchalantly evil dude with the evocative name Augustus Mould, aka Dr. Knife. He would give Stephen King nightmares.

"The Quick" is that rare book that reviewers and readers live for: both plot- and character-driven, a stay-up-all-night-reading romp of more than 500 pages that you'll desperately wish was double that. This is elegant, witty, force-of-nature writing, and Owen should have a long career ahead of her.



Amazon asks FAA for OK to fly drones

"We believe customers will



The FAA allows hobbyists and model aircraft makers to fly drones, but commercial use is mostly banned. Amazon is asking for an exemption so it can test its drones in the U.S. The Seattle company says its drone

"We're continuing to work with the FAA to meet Congress's goal

Amazon's stock rose \$18.28, or 5.6 percent, to close at \$346.20 on Friday. The stock is down about 18 percent since the beginning of the year.

July 11, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	28.74 16,943.81
Nasdaq composite	19.29 4,415.49
Standard & Poor's 500	2.89 1,967.57
Russell 2000	-1.93 1,153.30

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 14)	\$1.3968
Dollar buys (July 14)	€0.7159
British pound (July 14)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (July 14)	99.00
South Korean won (July 14)	992.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.7117/0.5842
Canada (Dollar)	1.0733
China (Yuan)	6.2052/6.4787
Denmark (Krone)	5.4381
Egypt (Pound)	7.1506/7.1506
Gulf \$	\$1.3659/0.9348
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Hungary (Forint)	227.83
Israel (Shekel)	3.4258
Japan (Yen)	101.33
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.1711
Peru (Pesos)	43.48
Poland (Zloty)	3.04
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7595
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2408
Turkey (Lira)	1,021.03
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8921
Thailand (Bath)	32.15

(Turkey (New Lira)) [2.1198](#)

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.34

MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC

CHINA RUSSIA

N. KOREA

Seoul 86/72

Osan 86/68

Busan 78/71

S. KOREA

Sasebo 76/72

Iwakuni 83/71

Sea of Japan

JAPAN

Tokyo 88/75

Misawa 79/65

Pacific Ocean

Guam 83/79

Philippine Sea

Okinawa 84/77

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

City	Hi	Lo
Arlene, Tex	96	67
Akron, Ohio	82	64
Albany, N.Y.	82	67
Albuquerque	90	70
Allentown, Pa.	85	64
Amarillo	93	70
Anchorage	64	52
Asheville	85	64
Atlanta	91	72
Atlantic City	86	64
Austin	97	72
Baltimore	94	69
Baton Rouge	94	74
Billings	87	61
Birmingham	91	73
Bismarck	74	56
Boise	100	66
Boston	83	66
Bridgeport	81	65
Brownsville	82	75
Buffalo	82	70
Burlington, Vt.	79	65
Casper, Maine	77	59
Carver	83	55
Charleston, S.C.	83	71
Charlottesville, W.Va.	91	66
Charlotte, N.C.	91	71

Wthr	Chattanooga	94	70	Cldy	Fort Wayne	83	72	Rain	Louisville	94	75	Cldy	Pocatello	94	59	Cir	Sioux City	84	62	PCldy
Cir	Cheyenne	78	56	PCldy	Fresno	104	69	Cir	Lubbock	92	68	PCldy	Portland, Maine	79	61	Cldy	Sioux Falls	81	61	PCldy
Rain	Chicago	89	70	PCldy	Grand Rapids	95	67	PCldy	Madison	81	64	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	89	61	Cldy	South Bend	88	71	PCldy
PCldy	Cincinnati	83	70	Rain	Grand Junction	81	68	Cldy	Medford	96	65	PCldy	Pueblo	84	63	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	87	73	Cldy
Rain	Cleveland	89	70	Rain	Green Bay	77	63	PCldy	Mengoni	95	67	PCldy	Portland, Me.	89	61	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	93	71	Rain
PCldy	Colorado Springs	94	72	PCldy	Green Bay	77	63	PCldy	Miami Beach	87	79	Cldy	Portland, Me.	89	61	Cldy	St. Louis	87	73	Rain
PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	94	73	PCldy	Hamilton	92	69	PCldy	Midland-Odesa	95	66	PCldy	Reno	103	65	Cir	Tallahassee	94	73	Cldy
PCldy	Dayton	86	69	PCldy	Hartford	93	68	PCldy	Minneapolis	95	66	PCldy	Riverside	94	62	Cldy	Tampa	93	69	Rain
PCldy	Concord, N.H.	85	61	Cldy	Hartford Spfld	83	61	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	77	63	PCldy	Roanoke	90	68	Cldy	Tampa	93	69	Rain
Cir	Corpus Christi	96	75	Rain	Helena	93	68	Cir	Missoula	99	68	Cir	Rochester	89	69	Rain	Tampa	93	69	Rain
PCldy	Dayton	86	69	PCldy	Honolulu	87	69	PCldy	Mobile	93	68	PCldy	Rockford	90	68	Cldy	Tampa	93	69	Rain
PCldy	Dayton	86	69	PCldy	Honolulu	87	69	PCldy	Monterey	96	67	Cldy	Sacramento	96	60	Cir	Tulsa	97	77	PCldy
PCldy	Dayton	86	69	PCldy	Honolulu	87	69	PCldy	Humble	94	71	Cldy	St. Louis	88	74	Cldy	Tulsa	97	77	PCldy
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Cir	Des Moines	84	66	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	93	72	Cldy	New York City	84	69	Cldy	St. Thomas	81	79	Cir	Washington	92	70	Cldy
PCldy	Duluth	70	57	PCldy	Juneau	67	56	Rain	New York City	84	69	Cldy	St. Thomas	81	79	Cir	Washington	92	70	Cldy
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INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stars as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stars reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headliner Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Barton

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lower Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Series

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24

Pro basketball

WNBA			
EASTERN CONFERENCE			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	10	5	12 1/2
Indiana	10	10	500 4
Connecticut	9	12	429 5 1/2
Chicago	8	12	400 6
Washington	8	12	400 6
New York	7	13	350 7
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	15	3	833 3
Minnesota	15	6	714 1 1/2
San Antonio	11	10	524 5 1/2
Los Angeles	8	11	421 7 1/2
Seattle	15	5	409 8
Tulsa	7	13	350 9
Thursday's games			
Indiana 72, Connecticut 68			
Minnesota 91, Tulsa 85			
Friday's games			
Los Angeles 68, New York 54			
Seattle 85, San Antonio 67			
Phoenix 72, Chicago 66			
Saturday's games			
Atlanta at Indiana			
Washington at Tulsa			
Sunday's games			
Los Angeles at Connecticut			
Seattle at Minnesota			
San Antonio at Phoenix			
Chicago at Atlanta			

Cycling

Tour de France
Saturday
At Gerardmer La Mauseleine, France
Eighth Stage
A 100-mile ride to the Vosges mountains from Tomblaine to Gerardmer La Mauseleine, with three climbs in the last 20 miles: two Category 2s and an uphill Category 3 finish
1. Blé Kadri, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 3 hours, 49 minutes, 28 seconds.
2. Alberto Contador, Spain, Tinkoff-Saxo, 2 minutes, 17 seconds behind.
3. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 2:20.
4. Richie Porte, Australia, Sky, 2:24.
5. Thibaut Pinot, France, FDJ.fr, 2:28.
Also
8. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, 1:40.
31. Christopher Horner, United States, Lampre-Merida, 4:19.
35. Andrew Talansky, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 4:37.
49. Benjamin King, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 10:34.
130. Peter Sietina, United States, BMC Racing, 1:48.
133. Alex Howes, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 1:53.
137. Ted King, United States, Cannondale, 20:32.
153. Matthew Busche, United States, Trek Factory Racing, same time.
172. Danny Pate, United States, Sky, same time.
Overall Standings (After eight stages)
1. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 33 hours, 48 minutes, 52 seconds.
2. Jakob Fuglsang, Denmark, Astana, 1 minute, 44 seconds behind.
3. Richie Porte, Australia, Sky, 1:58.
4. Michał Kwiatkowski, Poland, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, 2:26.
5. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 2:27.
6. Alberto Contador, Spain, Tinkoff-Saxo, 2:34.
Also
13. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, 3:34.
16. Andrew Talansky, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 4:22.
21. Christopher Horner, United States, Lampre-Merida, 6:12.

Briefly

Kadri takes eighth Tour stage

The Associated Press

GERARDMER, France — Blé Kadri of France won the eighth stage of the Tour de France in a breakaway as the race entered the Vosges mountains, while Vincenzo Nibali of Italy retained the yellow jersey on Saturday.

The uphill finish of the 100-mile ride from Tomblaine to Gerardmer La Mauseleine ski resort shook up the overall standings, leaving mostly strong climbers on top.

Nibali gained time on all of his main rivals, except one — and the most important — Alberto Contador of Spain, who gained three seconds on the Italian leader by winning their two-man race for second place. Contador was more than 2 minutes behind Kadri.

With his first Tour stage win and the first for a French rider this year, Kadri emerged from a five-man breakaway that chiseled out a lead of as many as 11 minutes.

The ride featured three mid-grade climbs in the first of three days in the mid-sized Vosges range near the German border.

None of the breakaway riders threatened Nibali's yellow jersey: The highest-placed among them began the stage nearly 26 1/2 minutes back.

Johnson, McGirt share lead in Deere Classic

SILVILS, Ill. — Zach Johnson and William McGirt were at 12-under-par 130 and tied for the lead at the halfway point of the John Deere Classic.

They were a stroke ahead of Steven Bowditch, Johnson Wagner and Brian Harman.

Three-time Deere winner Steve Stricker shot a 65 Friday for a 133 total to vault into contention at the par-71 TPC Deere Run, and was tied for sixth with



PETER DEJONG/AP

France's Blé Kadri crosses the finish line Saturday to win the eighth stage of the Tour de France covering 100 miles from Tomblaine to Gerardmer, France. Italy's Vincenzo Nibali retained the overall lead.

Rory Sabbatini, Ryan Moore and Todd Hamilton.

Johnson, the Deere winner in 2012, shot a 4-under 67 in the afternoon despite two bogeys in his last four holes. That dropped him into a tie with McGirt.

McGirt, 35, is looking for his first PGA Tour victory.

A late ruling took Inbee Park from one shot behind to leading the Women's British Open on Saturday, the slightest head start in her quest to become only the seventh player to win four of the LPGA Tour's major championships.

Park handled the tough opening stretch at Royal Birkdale in Southport, England, with three birdies and shot a 4-under 68, giving her a one-shot lead over fellow major champions Suzann Pettersen of Norway (68) and Shanshan Feng of China (69), along with Ahn Sun-Ju of South Korea.

Ahn appeared to be the player to chase after what she thought was a 69 for a one-shot lead.

She was summoned to the rules trailer, where officials determined she used her left foot to build her stance in a pot bunker left of the 18th green. Ahn was assessed two shots for violating Rule 13-3. Her par turned into a double bogey. Her 69 became a 71.

And she went from a one-shot lead in the final group to having to make up ground against Park, the LPGA Tour's reigning player of the year.

The penalty also created a wide-open final round at Royal Birkdale.

Park was at 4-under 212, though a dozen players were within three shots of the lead.

Colin Montgomerie remains in front after the second day of action at the U.S. Senior Open in Edmond, Okla.

The Scotsman had an even-par

71 on Friday and is 6 under for the tournament, good for a one-stroke lead over Scott Dunlap.

Dunlap had a 69 in the second round. He birdied Nos. 2, 5 and 7 on his way to a 3-under 32 on the front nine.

Bernhard Langer took sole possession of the lead with a birdie on 14, but netted bogeys on 15, 16 and 18 to finish tied for third at 4 under. He is tied with Gene Sauers, who shot 69 on both the first two days.

Jones wins NASCAR trucks race in Iowa

NEWTON, Iowa — Erik Jones led for 131 of 200 laps and won the NASCAR Trucks series race in Iowa on Friday night, giving Kyle Busch Motorsports its seventh win in nine races this season.

It's the second career win for the 18-year-old Jones and the sixth victory of 2014 for the No. 51 truck.

Ryan Blaney was second, followed by Matt Crafton, Joey Coulter and German Quiroga Jr.

Although Jones had the dominant truck, Blaney tracked him down near the end of the race. The pair even went side-by-side 16 laps from the finish, but Jones held Blaney off for his first win in 2014.

Crafton took the points lead from Johnny Sauter by finishing third.

In other auto racing news:

Kyle Busch turned a lap of 138.130 mph on Friday to win the pole at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

It's the second pole of the season for Busch, who will be joined on the front row by Jimmie Johnson for Sunday's Sprint Cup race.

Denny Hamlin, Tony Stewart and Jamie McMurray completed the top five. Points leader Jeff Gordon starts 11th.

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NBA

Five things to watch

LeBron's decision: How life with Cavs changes league

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

LeBron James' decision to come home to Cleveland is being hailed as a story about the power of forgiveness and maturity and a victory for a blue-collar, cold-weather American city over a destination spot in glitzy Miami.

Now that the decision has, finally, been made, what does it mean for the long-struggling team on the court?

The four-time Most Valuable Player and two-time NBA champion is departing the Heat and returning to the team he left in 2010 largely because of the lure of home. But it could be argued that the Cavaliers could be a better decision purely from a basketball standpoint.

In Miami, James would have had to team up with Dwyane Wade, who has been slowed by knee problems over the last two seasons, Chris Bosh, who struggled against San Antonio's Tim Duncan in the NBA Finals and not much else.

General Manager Pat Riley reached agreements with Josh McRoberts and Danny Granger earlier this week, but they did little to inspire hope that the roster could improve enough to rebound from the beatdown the San Antonio Spurs gave them last month.

The Cavaliers offer him a youthful roster with three No. 1 overall picks, in addition to James. They have a handful of

extra first-round draft picks that will allow the team the flexibility to make trades or continue to add talent to the roster around him.

And they have a devoted fan base that is desperate for a champion in a city that hasn't won a pro sports title since 1964.

Here are five things to watch as the Cavaliers welcome James back:

1 **Kyrie factor:** One of the Heat's big weaknesses last season was the lack of strong point guard play. Mario Chalmers was wildly inconsistent and Norris Cole is not a difference-maker. That forced James to do a lot of the heavy lifting in the ball-handling and playmaking departments. In Cleveland, he'll have Irving, one of the most dynamic young point guards in the game. Provided Irving stays healthy, he will be the best point guard James has ever had.

2 **Search for Love:** The Cavaliers have had exploratory talks with the Timberwolves about acquiring All-Star Kevin Love, who played with James on Team USA at the 2012 Olympics. The Timberwolves would need No. 1 overall draft pick Andrew Wiggins in the deal to part with Love, but it remains unclear if the Cavaliers would be willing to trade the young wing for the proven 25-year-old Love. Love is widely considered one of the 10 best players in the game.

3 **LeBron's friends:** For all the promising young talent the Cavaliers have on their roster, they still could use some more veteran help for James and Anderson Varejao, the only players with extensive NBA experience on the roster. According to several reports, the Cavs were negotiating with Mike Miller, a longtime friend of James' who teamed up with him in Miami. Ray Allen, who is considering retirement or playing for one more season, is another candidate to join James, who loves to be surrounded by top-flight shooters.

4 **Gilbert's aggressiveness:** For all the concern over Cavs owner Dan Gilbert's venomous letter in response to James' exit in 2010, no one is denying his commitment to sparing no expense to bring talent to the team. When the Cavs got word that James was considering them, Gilbert and General Manager David Griffin didn't hesitate to trade a young center with potential in Tyler Zeller and a first-round draft pick to unload Jarrett Jack's contract and create the room to sign James. Gilbert also won't hesitate to go over the salary cap to assemble an NBA championship-caliber team.

5 **One big need:** James mentioned in his essay for Sports Illustrated that he understood it may take some time for the Cavaliers to add



CHARLES CHERNE/AP

With LeBron James back in Cleveland and a youthful roster with three No. 1 picks, the Cavaliers have gone from NBA also-rans to a franchise with a bright future.

the necessary pieces to become a true NBA championship contender. One of the biggest pieces they will need to add — now or in the future — is a big, rim-protecting center. The Spurs exploited Miami's lack of a true defensive center in the Finals, and the Cavs

need one, as well. Varejao is a nice defensive player, but hasn't played a full season since 2008-09 and isn't the shot-blocking force that could be needed, especially if Cleveland adds the defensively challenged Love to the frontcourt.

Briefs

Bosh returns to Heat for \$118M max contract

The Associated Press

Chris Bosh said countless times in recent weeks that he did not want to leave Miami.

Not even LeBron James' departure changed his mind.

Bosh is staying with the Heat, agreeing Friday to a five-year contract that will be worth about \$118 million, said two people familiar with the deal. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side had confirmed it publicly.

Keeping Bosh addresses one of Miami's top priorities after getting the news earlier in the day that James was leaving the Heat and returning to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

There's still plenty of work for Heat President Pat Riley to do, however. But first, he and the team lauded what James meant to them over the last four seasons.

"While I am disappointed by LeBron's decision to leave Miami, no one can fault another person for wanting to return home," Riley

said in a statement Friday night. "LeBron is a fantastic leader, athlete, teammate and person, and we are all sorry to see him go."

Next up for the Heat: More than likely, it's a deal with Dwyane Wade, who has spent all 11 of his NBA seasons in Miami. Wade and Miami were negotiating a new contract Friday, a move that was expected from the very moment the 2006 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player opted out of a deal that would have paid him about \$42 million over the next two seasons.

Jazz match Charlotte's offer for Hayward

The Utah Jazz have matched Charlotte's four-year, \$63 million offer for restricted free agent Gordon Hayward.

Hayward's agent, Mark Bartelstein, confirmed Utah's move on Saturday. It was first reported by Yahoo! Sports.

The Jazz had until late Sunday to match the Hornets' offer from

Thursday for the 6-foot-8 small forward. The team did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Hayward averaged career highs of 16.2 points, 5.2 assists, 5.1 rebounds and 1.4 steals last season while leading the Jazz in scoring and minutes. The ninth overall pick in the 2010 draft, Hayward has played all four seasons in Utah. He has scored in double figures 63 times with nine double-doubles while averaging 12 points, 3.4 rebounds and 3.1 assists.

The Jazz also announced Friday the team has signed draft picks Dante Exum and Rodney Hood.

AP: Kings deal Thomas to Suns in sign-and-trade

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns agreed to a sign-and-trade deal with the Sacramento Kings for point guard Isaiah Thomas, two people with knowledge of the situation said Friday.

The people, who sought ano-

nymity because the deal has not been officially announced, said Thomas is signing a four-year, \$27 million contract. In exchange, the Kings get the draft rights to center Alex Oriakhi, a second-round draft pick of the Suns in 2013, plus a \$7 million trade exception.

One of the people who confirmed the deal said the Suns see Thomas as a "perfect third guard" to play with Phoenix's double point guard starting lineup of Goran Dragic and Eric Bledsoe. He is not envisioned as a replacement for either of them.

Other moves

■ The Memphis Grizzlies signed Vince Carter on Saturday, looking to bolster their outside shooting with an eight-time All-Star who spent last season as a Dallas Mavericks reserve.

■ The New York Knicks have waived veteran forward Lamar Odom and re-signed center Cole Aldrich.



CHARLES TRAMER JR., MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Miami Heat free-agent forward Chris Bosh, who earlier had opted out of a deal with the team, will return to Miami after agreeing to terms on a five-year, \$118 million contract on Friday.



Cards gain ground

Tehrani AT	129	105	28	110	8	6.5	2.5
Havranek M	128	129	52	118	10	6.5	2.5
Singh R	127	129	72	125	75	7.5	3.5
Greinke LAD	119	117	22	122	127	8.5	2.5
Wong J CHC	119	117	22	122	127	8.5	2.5
Hamels PH	100	88	35	101	3	5.5	2.5
Greinke LAD	100	88	35	101	3	5.5	2.5
Tross N	123	104	48	117	7	9	2.5
Niese NYM	109	97	28	104	7	9	2.5
Wong J CHC	109	97	28	104	7	9	2.5
Zimmerman Was	113	117	20	101	6	9	2.5
Wong J CHC	113	117	20	101	6	9	2.5
Rock Was	107	100	25	79	7	6.5	3.5
Rock Was	107	100	25	79	7	6.5	3.5
Rock Was	107	100	25	79	7	6.5	3.5
Rock Was	107	100	25	79	7	6.5	3.5
Lohse Mil	127	115	23	95	9	4	3.5
Burnhamer SF	121	117	32	123	9	4	3.5
Wong J CHC	121	117	32	123	9	4	3.5
Strasburg Was	119	120	24	140	4	6.5	3.5
Wong J CHC	119	120	24	140	4	6.5	3.5
Wong J CHC	119	120	24	140	4	6.5	3.5
Eovaldi Mil	120	122	23	83	3	6.5	3.5
Wong J CHC	120	122	23	83	3	6.5	3.5
Ryan LAD	99	106	21	83	3	6.5	3.5
Lincum SF	113	97	44	101	9	5	3.5
Wong J CHC	113	97	44	101	9	5	3.5
Garza Mil	124	109	38	93	6	5	3.5
Wong J CHC	124	109	38	93	6	5	3.5
Colletier Ariz	104	105	28	65	7	5	3.5
Aburnett PH	132	118	57	108	6	8.5	3.5
Wong J CHC	132	118	57	108	6	8.5	3.5
Vogelsong SF	103	102	32	90	9	6.5	3.5
Wong J CHC	103	102	32	90	9	6.5	3.5
Koeher Mil	106	92	41	84	8	6.5	3.5
Wong J CHC	106	92	41	84	8	6.5	3.5
Esantani Ariz	110	108	31	96	7	6	4.0
Baley CHC	110	118	30	105	8	6.5	4.2
Wong J CHC	110	118	30	105	8	6.5	4.2
Haren LAD	113	122	21	82	8	6.5	4.2
Wong J CHC	113	122	21	82	8	6.5	4.2
Miller Ariz	120	115	35	114	4	6.5	4.4
Wong J CHC	120	115	35	114	4	6.5	4.4
Jobe PH	103	91	43	73	10	6.5	4.4
Loe La Rosa Col	103	91	43	73	10	6.5	4.4
Todd WChc	106	110	45	86	7	6.5	4.6
Wong J CHC	106	110	45	86	7	6.5	4.6
Stuitt SD	99	120	23	39	31	6.5	4.6
Wong J CHC	99	120	23	39	31	6.5	4.6

MLB

NL roundup

Rollins' HRs lead Phillies over Nats

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ever since Philadelphia general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. called his team's offense "poor" and predicted changes, the Phillies haven't lost.

Jimmy Rollins homered twice and A.J. Burnett pitched 7½ strong innings to lead the Phillies to their fifth straight victory, 6-2 over the Washington Nationals on Friday night.

Domonic Brown doubled and drove in two runs for Philadelphia, which matched its longest winning streak of the season.

It has been a surprising run for the Phillies, who had lost 13 of 16 before a four-game sweep of the NL Central-leading Brewers in Milwaukee.

The Phillies have averaged 6.2 runs per game during their winning string.

"I know the hitters had a good meeting about where we were and adjustments that needed to be made," manager Ryne Sandberg said. "Key guys seemed to come up big in situations right from that point on and it's been different guys each day. That's what it takes. Now it feels like the whole lineup is chipping in and doing their part."

Said Rollins: "There's something going on and hopefully it turns into a fire."

Bryce Harper homered for the Nationals, who have lost three of four.

Washington right-hander Jordan Zimmermann (6-5) abruptly left his start in the fourth inning with a right biceps injury.

Zimmermann, scheduled to participate in his second straight All-Star Game on Tuesday, was scheduled to be evaluated further on Saturday. He isn't expected to pitch on Tuesday, according to manager Matt Williams.

Burnett (6-8) allowed two runs and five hits while striking out six and walking four.

"We're playing good ball," Burnett said. "It's good to see this team clicking on all cylinders."

As with the rest of the starters, Burnett has been a victim of lack

of run support this season.

"You go about your business the same, but it's definitely better to get some runs," he said.

Zimmermann, who had Tommy John surgery in August 2009, called the Nationals' training staff out after throwing a pitch to Cameron Rupp with one in the fourth inning. He showed no obvious discomfort, but left the mound after a short discussion with the training staff and Williams.

Zimmermann doesn't feel the problem is related to his shoulder or elbow.

"It was gradually getting worse with every pitch," he said. "I knew something wasn't right. I didn't want to push it too far."

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 0: Tim Lincecum and two relievers combined on a five-hitter and Lincecum drove in a run with a safety squeeze to help host San Francisco shut out Arizona.

Cubs 5, Braves 4: Justin Ruggiano hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning and host Chicago sent Atlanta to its fifth loss in six games following a nine-game winning streak.

Mets 7, Marlins 1: David Wright went 4-for-4 with a mammoth homer and Lucas Duda also hit a long two-run shot as host New York rocked recent nemesis Henderson Alvarez in a victory over Miami.

Reds 6, Pirates 5: Brayan Pena's pinch-hit single in the eighth inning finished another late rally by host Cincinnati, which overcame more injuries to beat Pittsburgh and keep its momentum going toward the All-Star break.

Pedres 6, Dodgers 3: Carlos Quentin drove in three runs, Alexi Amarista homered and Jesse Hahn pitched six solid innings, leading San Diego over host Los Angeles.

Interleague

Rockies 6, Twins 2: Jorge De La Rosa pitched six strong innings, Troy Tulowitzki and Drew Stubbs each hit two-run homers, and host Colorado beat Minnesota in at the teams' first interleague meeting in 11 years.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Philadelphia Phillies' Domonic Brown, front, is tagged out by Washington Nationals catcher Wilson Ramos after trying to score on an RBI-double by Cameron Rupp during the sixth inning of Friday's game in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won 6-2.



NICK WASS/AP

The Baltimore Orioles' Nick Hundley, center, celebrates with teammates after he drove in the game-winning run against the New York Yankees during the 10th inning of Friday's game in Baltimore.

AL roundup

Hundley delivers winner as O's top Yankees in 10

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — When the game went into extra innings, the Baltimore Orioles figured it would only be a matter of time before they would be celebrating a win over the New York Yankees.

Sure enough, it wasn't long before the Orioles joyfully gathered at home plate immediately following a 3-2 victory Friday night.

Manny Machado led off the 10th inning with a double and scored on a one-out single by Nick Hundley to give Baltimore its ninth win in 11 games. The AL East-leading Orioles improved to a season-high 10 games over .500 (51-41) and stretched their advantage over New York to five games.

Baltimore has gone to extra innings in three of its last five games and won in the 10th, 11th and 12th innings.

"Usually, it's pitching and the bullpen doing well," manager Buck Showalter offered as an explanation.

In this one, the Orioles got eight sharp innings from starter Miguel Gonzalez, a scoreless ninth from closer Zach Britton and a perfect 10th from T.J. McFarland (3-2).

It all added up to Baltimore's ninth win in 12 extra-inning games this season.

"I think it really speaks to the depth of our bullpen, the quality of our bullpen," Hundley said. "T.J. McFarland comes in, does a great job going through the beginning of their order, a tough part, 1-2-3. And then with the offense that we

have and the staunch bullpen, that combination lends itself to be successful — either late in the game or extra innings."

Machado began the game-winning uprising with a liner into the right-field corner off Adam Warren (1-5). After Ryan Flaherty struck out, Hundley hit an off-speed pitch into left-center that enabled Machado to score easily.

"He just left a breaking ball up, that's all," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said of Warren. "He's pitched extremely well for us, but he just left a breaking ball up. There's not much room for error there."

Playing as a visitor at Camden Yards for the first time, Yankees second baseman Brian Roberts homered on the first pitch he saw. Roberts spent his first 13 seasons with the Orioles before signing as a free agent with New York.

Kelly Johnson also hit a solo shot for the Yankees, who entered with a major league-best 27-17 record in games decided by two runs or fewer. Now, however, they are only 5-5 in extra innings.

This one hurt a little bit more because of the separation it created between the teams.

"It definitely does," Warren said. "We're trying to gain games on these guys, and it just didn't go our way tonight."

New York starter Hiroki Kuroda gave up two runs and three hits in seven innings. Although he didn't issue a walk, Kuroda hit two batters and threw three wild pitches.

Gonzalez allowed two runs and six hits over eight innings. After giving up a fourth-inning double to Ichiro Suzuki, the right-hander retired 14 of the final 15 batters he faced.

Angels 3, Rangers 0: Garrett Richards allowed five hits over seven innings to extend his personal winning streak to seven decisions as visiting Los Angeles handed Texas its sixth straight loss.

Mike Trout provided Richards all the run support he needed with a solo home run in the fourth inning, his 22nd of the season.

Mariners 3, Athletics 2: Felix Hernandez outpitched Jeff Samardzija and Robinson Cano hit a go-ahead double to propel host Seattle past Oakland.

Red Sox 8, Astros 3: Rookie Christian Vazquez got his first three major league hits and drove in three runs, while David Ortiz had three RBIs to break open the game in the sixth inning as Boston beat host Houston.

Indians 7, White Sox 4: Corey Kluber (9-6) allowed four runs in six innings and Nick Swisher hit a two-run homer in the fifth to lead host Cleveland over Chicago.

Blue Jays 8, Rays 5: Steve Tolleson's two-run single snapped a ninth-inning tie and helped visiting Toronto rally after blowing a four-run lead to beat Tampa Bay.

Tigers 2, Royals 1: Anibal Sanchez tossed seven stingy innings, Ian Kinsler and Miguel Cabrera drove in runs and Detroit squeaked by host Kansas City.



WORLD CUP

Two teams,
one goal

THOMAS
MUELLER
Forward

8 finals reached

3 titles



GERMANY

W D L
5 1 0

17



Goals scored

2.8



Goals per match

70%



Shots on target (pct.)

14.7



Attempts per match

71



Fouls committed

4



Yellow cards

0



Red cards

80%



Pass completion

ADVANTAGE: GERMANY

DEFENSE

Improved vastly since coach Joachim Löw took captain Philip Lahm out of midfield and put him back in his favored position as right back after an erratic display against Algeria in the second round, Mats Hummels has been a steady anchor in central defense, and Germany had little trouble neutralizing the explosive attacks of France and Brazil. Messi is another matter.

ADVANTAGE: GERMANY

MIDFIELD

This is Germany's biggest strength, a unit without weakness that plays together as a well-oiled machine. Bastian Schweinsteiger and Sami Khedira shore up the defense while Toni Kroos and Mesut Özil direct most of the attacks going forward. Germany's ruthless display against Brazil was orchestrated by the clinical efficiency of its midfield.

Germany has the highest-scoring player in World Cup history in Miroslav Klose, Klose netted his 16th career World Cup goal against Brazil, and his teammate Thomas Müller already has 10 in just two tournaments. Müller scored the opening goal in the shocking 7-1 win over Brazil in the semifinals and became just the second player to score five goals in back-to-back World Cups.

ADVANTAGE: GERMANY

GOALKEEPING

Neuer's reputation as one of the best goalkeepers in the world has only grown in Brazil, where he has been one of Germany's best players throughout the tournament, especially in the knockout rounds.

MANUEL
NEUER



5 finals reached

2 titles



ARGENTINA

W D L
5 1 0

7



Goals scored

1.2



Goals per match

60%



Shots on target (pct.)

15.8



Attempts per match

64



Fouls committed

6



Yellow cards

0



Red cards

80%



Pass completion

Argentina's defense was seen as its main weakness going into the World Cup, but has now gone 330 minutes without conceding a goal in the knockout rounds – including two extra time periods. The back four, including Manchester City duo Pablo Zabaleta and Martin Demichelis, made Dutch strikers Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie look ordinary.

The Argentines are hoping that Angel Di Maria will recover from a thigh injury to play in the final. Di Maria's pace and ability to take on defenders on the wing was sorely missed against the Netherlands, when his team struggled to find ways forward. Defensive midfielder Javier Mascherano is the key to keeping Germany in check.

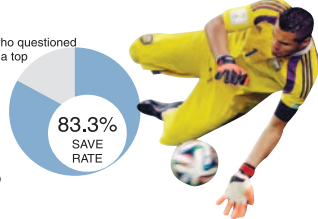
ATTACK

ADVANTAGE: ARGENTINA

While Messi hasn't scored in the three knockout games, his four goals in the group stage reminded everyone of why he's a four-time world player of the year. Messi has always been the key to Argentina's success. For Argentina to have a chance, Messi will have to create goals – for himself or his teammates.

Romero has answered sceptics who questioned if he was good enough to play for a top World Cup team. A backup for his club Monaco this past season, he came through big in the penalty shootout against the Netherlands with two saves.

SERGIO
ROMERO



SPORTS



And finally ...

ARGENTINA VS. GERMANY



Argentina's
Lionel Messi

VICTOR R. CARVANO/AP



Germany's
Manuel Neuer

MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Argentina's Messi can define his career, while Germany tries to re-establish itself as a new global power, Page 30



Championship
Argentina vs. Germany
AFN-Sports
8:30 p.m. Sunday
Central European Time

